

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

Stars... John Hennessy reports from Sarajevo as Torvill and Dean begin their quest for Olympic gold in the ice dance contest.



of David How will the crisis in Lebanon affect Israel's foreign policy? Christopher Walker analyses the reaction in Jerusalem.

Union... Woodrow Wyatt argues in favour of postal ballots for all union members. and Confederacy Saturday section includes a guided tour around the civil war sites of the deep south in the US. Plumbing... The latest designs in bathroom fittings. the depths How swimming pools have caught up with the leisure boom.

## Miners call for blockade of imports

Miners' leaders are to ask five transport unions to impose a blockade of coal imports, in an attempt to intensify the 14-week pit overtime ban. A conference of unions representing the train drivers, railwaymen, seamen, steelworkers and transport and general workers will organize the ban. Page 2

## MP resigns from committee

Mr John Goss, Conservative MP for Hendon North, has resigned as unofficial leader of the Tory MPs on the Commons committee investigating the GCHQ ban on union membership after complaining about excessive pressure from the whips.

## Space docking

The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz T10 docked with the orbiting Salyut Station 7. Approach stages were controlled automatically, while docking was done by the Soyuz crew. Shuttle setback, page 8

## 'Resign' call

Mr Enoch Powell called for the resignation of Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, over the report into the Maze prison break-out. Parliament, page 4

## TV-am warning

The commercial television network will be without a breakfast station for up to a year in the event of TV-am collapsing. Page 2



## Maxwell rival

A consortium of Manchester businessmen has put in a rival bid against Robert Maxwell for Manchester United, saying they would set up a trust.

Leader page 15 Letters: On jobless, from Professor Al Clunies Ross, and Mr H Haslam: PM's questions, from Lady Burton of Coventry. Leading articles: US economy: Kiessling affair: Injunctions. Features, pages 12-14 Five years of the Ayatollah: planning - the battle for Jenkin's ear; index-linking loses its lustre; David Watt on the outlook for South Africa under the new constitution; Spectrum: views on a room. Friday Page: how old people's homes have become big business. Obituary, page 16 Miss Mary Skeaping, Dr Bernard Schlesinger.

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# British civilians to leave Beirut as chaos grows

British residents in west Beirut have been told to go to the embassy along the coast to be evacuated by helicopter.

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher defended the decision to withdraw the troops before rescuing British subjects (Page 8)

America last night resumed its massive naval bombardment of Druze artillery positions in the mountains east of Beirut

Rockets were yesterday fired from Lebanon into Galilee for only the second time since the Israeli invasion in June, 1982 (Page 8)

Syria wants Britain and Europe to launch a peace initiative in the Middle East without American involvement (Page 8)

Security Council members met privately last night to consider whether UN peacekeepers could replace the multinational force in Beirut (Page 8)

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

As the civil war between Muslim militias and Christian Phalangists intensified along the front line in Beirut yesterday, more than 150 British residents in the western sector of the city were told to gather outside their embassy on the Mediterranean coastline today. They are to be evacuated by helicopter, either to a British ship or north to the Christian-held port of Jounieh.

The International Red Cross, meanwhile, made several appeals for oxygen to be brought across the front line to hospitals in West Beirut, and announced that it was trying to rescue 2,000 Lebanese civilians who have been trapped - half of them for a week in cellars - in the battlefield in the centre of the capital.

After dark last night the Americans resumed their massive naval barrage against the Druze-held mountains east of Beirut. Firing after the Christian sector of Beirut had itself come under bombardment, the destroyer Moosbrugger began shooting at what the Americans described as artillery positions in the hills with five-inch shells, while gunfire from Phalangist artillery and Christian units of

the Lebanese Army was directed at the same targets. The Christian East Beirut sector came under sustained artillery fire all day from Druze guns in the mountains while Phalangist militias and Christian units of the Lebanese Army bombarded the Druze in the Metn and Chouf.

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, complained bitterly about the 10-hour American bombardment of the Metn and Chouf on Wednesday by the Sixth Fleet battleship New Jersey, saying that two entire Druze villages had been wiped out by the half-ton shells.

Plans for a British evacuation had earlier been delayed by rough seas that forced the Greek ferryboat Sol Georgios, which was to have taken evacuees to Cyprus, to anchor off Jounieh overnight.

The 150 Britons, only a fraction of the thousand or so British subjects in Beirut, have been told to bring only one suitcase with them to the seafloor Corniche. A telex message from the Embassy, which still has no telephone lines, added bluntly: "No pets or weapons will be permitted."

The Red Cross said yesterday evening that, with wounded still being brought into hospitals in West Beirut, only seven oxygen canisters now remained for doctors to use, all of them at the American University Hospital. It had so far been impossible to arrange a truce to bring more oxygen from East Beirut.

A Red Cross official said that in the area of Galerie Seeman a thousand local residents had been hiding in cellars since the battles began there on Thursday last week, and a further thousand people were unable to leave a triangle of territory in the centre of the city west of the museum, as shells had been falling into and around their homes for four days.

Their was little enough hope from either President Gemayel or his opponents yesterday that the fighting would slacken. Mr Jumblatt said in Damascus that the fighting would continue until Mr Gemayel resigned, and he warned that "US interests in Lebanon (an expression he did not define) would be in danger if the Sixth Fleet bombardment of the Druze-held mountains continued."

Continued on back page, col 5

## Reagan loses credibility over withdrawal of Marines

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, still refusing to break his holiday during a second day of American bombardment of central Lebanon and areas east of Beirut, yesterday lost critical political ground amid deepening confusion about the US military role and the timescale for withdrawing American Marines.

French and Italian government representatives in Washington last night made no secret of their disappointment with Mr Reagan's handling of the pull-back announcement. "We could not keep up with what was going on, there were no consultations," a senior French embassy official said. "That is probably why (our troops) are still there."

Meanwhile Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary told a Congressional hearing that the US shelling of Syrian positions in Lebanon was to support the Lebanese army and to show that the marine pullback did not mean a weakened US commitment.

He maintained the Lebanese Army had not fallen apart. "Reports that the army has disintegrated are not only premature but quite wrong," he said.

Mr Weinberger was one of the first senior administration officials to testify publicly to Congress on President Reagan's surprise announcement on Tuesday that the 1,600 Marines in the international peace-keeping force in Beirut would be pulled back in stages to US ships offshore.

Domestically the signs of relief from Republicans and Democrats over the withdrawal dissipated yesterday as it became clear that there was no clear timetable for redeployment to warships off the Lebanese coast. One senior Congressman suggested after receiving a high-level briefing that the pullout of all 1,600

troops might take four months. Mr Weinberger still has not presented the President with a specific pullout programme.

Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, echoed widespread Congressional sentiment by demanding a fast and complete withdrawal. "I would not be dragging my feet if I were you," he told Mr Weinberger.

The White House confirmed that the battleship New Jersey was again in action off Lebanon yesterday and that there had been more firing in the area of the US Embassy in East Beirut. President Reagan, according to the White House, was riding horses, chopping wood and clearing brush at his California ranch.

He received a cable report from Mr Donald Rumsfeld, his Middle East envoy, on the outcome of earlier talks with President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon. Mr Reagan also had telephone consultations with Vice-President George Bush during the afternoon but has steadfastly kept out of the public eye.

Few congressmen expected the American bombardment of Lebanon to be so relentless.

Cut likely to be short-lived

## Petrol price falls 4p a gallon

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Esso, Britain's largest petrol company, is cutting the price of four-star petrol by 3p a gallon from today. With the reduction in VAT, pump prices at Esso's 3,400 filling stations will drop by 4p to 179.6p.

The other leading petrol companies, Shell, BP, Texaco and Mobil, are likely to follow with similar price cuts by the weekend.

Esso, which has a 19 per cent share of the market, has led the price cutting at a time of high stocks and falling demand. Prices of crude oil have

remained steady over the past weeks and stocks have built up. However, the period of cheaper petrol will be short. The industry expects tax-changes in the Budget to add as much as 8p a gallon to four-star.

Officials in the big four petrol companies have been predicting since the autumn that petrol prices would have to fall to below 180p a gallon this winter to stimulate demand.

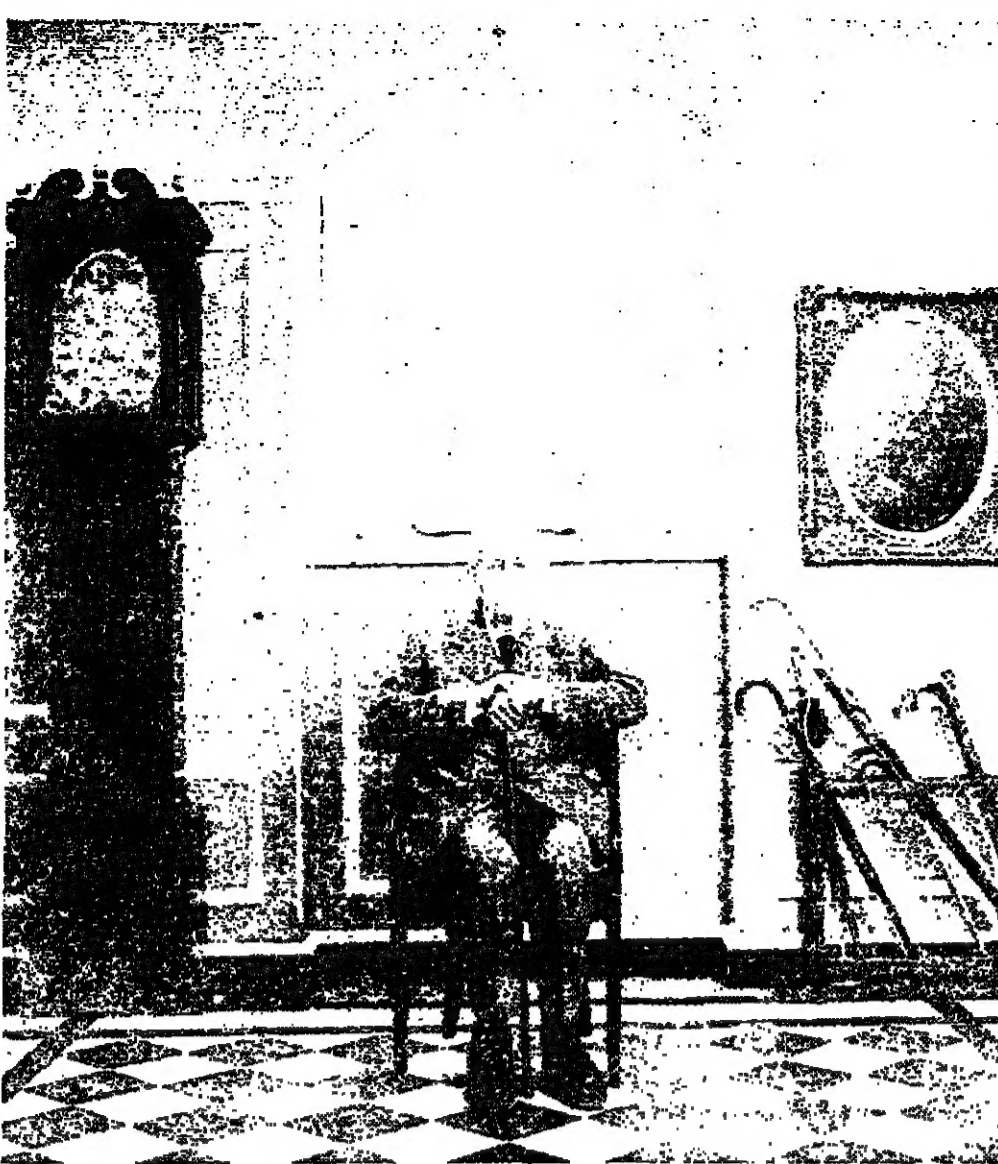
Local price cutting has taken place at higher profit margins - most petrol stations make about 7p on a gallon - have given the

companies room to stimulate demand.

Esso had decided to embark on a national price cut rather than support retailers in areas where competition from the smaller independent oil companies has led to price reductions.

Other companies have been offering extra services like late-opening grocery outlets.

The likelihood of price rises in the Budget comes after oil company figures which show that apart from West Germany, Britain has the lowest petrol prices in the EEC.



Mr Macmillan in a lordly pose for his birthday portrait by Patrick Lichfield

## Macmillan gets 90th birthday earldom

By Julian Haviland and Alan Hamilton

Mr Harold Macmillan has been granted an earldom to mark his ninetieth birthday today. He is the first earl to have been created for 21 years.

It is also just over 21 years since he resigned and declined the earldom traditionally offered to former Prime Ministers in these days.

He told his friends he preferred to remain "plain Mr Macmillan", as he had always been. The Buckingham Palace announcement at midnight said: "The Queen had been graciously pleased to approve that the dignity of an Earldom of the United Kingdom be conferred upon the Right Honourable Maurice Harold Macmillan, OM."

Nothing was known last night about the titles he will take but his heir, Mr Maurice Macmillan, will become the honorary bearer of his secondary title, a viscountcy.

There remain only two former Prime Ministers who are still plain mister - Edward Heath and James Callaghan. Mr Macmillan is celebrating tonight with a private dinner party at Birch Grove, his Sussex home, for his family of three living children, 15 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, and with a lunch party tomorrow for friends, including the three other living Conservative Prime Ministers, Lord Home of the Hirsel, Mr Edward Heath and Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Oxford University has invited him as Chancellor to a private dinner party in the grand hall of his own old college, Balliol, next week.

Mr Macmillan, grandson of the Scotsman from the Isle of Arran who founded the family publishing house, was born in London in 1894, when Queen Victoria was still three years from her diamond jubilee, and less than a month before Gladstone's retirement from his fourth and final tenure of office.

He is within reach of a record for prime ministerial longevity - he has already outlived Gladstone by two years and only Churchill has claimed a longer span.

His birthday celebrations, however, will not include a display of his style as a public speaker. His eyesight no longer permits him to read, and he has only to rely entirely on talking books for the blind.

## Hopes rise for tax cuts in Budget

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is likely to have considerably more room in his Budget next month to cut taxes or reduce public borrowing than has so far been suggested.

The public spending White Paper, to be published next Thursday, will show spending running only fractionally ahead of plans this year after earlier fears of a substantial overshoot.

The White Paper estimates that state spending in 1983-84 will total £120.3 billion, only £700m more than forecast last March. Last autumn spending appeared to be running £2 billion to £3 billion over target, and the Treasury raised its estimate of public borrowing from £5 billion to £10 billion.

The lower-than-expected spending overrun, coupled with more buoyant tax revenues than predicted, suggests the revised figure will prove too high.

The Treasury now believes that the spending spree by government departments which began last spring has run its course. The £500m cut in departmental budgets announced in July has begun to bite and officials are clearly confident that there will be no repetition of the end-of-year surge in spending which took them by surprise last year.

In addition, some programmes like the Youth Train-

ing Scheme, have been over budgeted and the Government has sold extra assets and drawn down most of the contingency reserve to cover overshoots elsewhere.

Public spending is planned to rise by about 5 per cent in cash terms in 1984-85 to £126.4 billion, increasing to about £137 billion in 1986-87, the last year of the published projections.

The plans assume that after adjusting for inflation spending will remain broadly unchanged. This suggests that the Government is working on the basis of 5 per cent inflation in 1984-85, falling to 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 and 3.5 per cent in 1986-87, in line with the Chancellor's ultimate goal of price stability.

The latest figures suggest Mr Lawson could afford significant tax cuts within his public borrowing target of £8 billion for 1984-85, or use the savings to reduce borrowing further, for example, to take some account of sales of public assets.

The White Paper will also include a new presentation of capital spending by the public sector, designed to deflect criticism that investment has borne a disproportionate share of spending cuts.

It will show that public investment has remained roughly constant in real, inflation-adjusted terms over the past five years.

## Priority for personal tax relief

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet appeared to have reached agreement yesterday that priority should be given in Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget to personal rather than company tax reliefs.

At their customary pre-Budget discussion, lasting about 90 minutes, ministers seemed to have achieved a remarkable degree of consensus over the measures which they believe the Chancellor of the Exchequer should bring forward on March 13.

While the possibility of a small tax increase, threatened by Mr Lawson in the autumn, has clearly been removed, so too has the likelihood of cuts in income tax.

Ministers who have argued against the Government setting out on a campaign of tax-cutting early in the life of its second term clearly believe that they have won the argument. But there was agreement that Mr Lawson should concentrate on raising tax thresholds to increase incentives and help workers who might otherwise be caught in the poverty trap.

Mr Lawson, who confirmed in the Commons yesterday afternoon that he is to go ahead and publish a Green Paper on public expenditure and taxation prospects into the 1990s, had earlier presented the Cabinet with an optimistic forecast of prospects for output and inflation.

His forecast that the economy was expected to continue to grow at an annual rate of about 3 per cent over the next 18 months, faster than many other European countries, was apparently one of the factors that persuaded ministers that he

## Others 'may bid for Scott Lithgow'

By Staff Reporters

The Prime Minister assured anxious Opposition MPs yesterday that the conditional agreement for the sale of the Scott Lithgow shipyard by British Shipbuilders to Trafalgar House did not preclude other companies from making the purchase. But she said that time was short and she deplored the "apparent rejection" by the trade unions of a chance to retain 1,000 to 2,000 jobs on the Clyde. Yesterday the entire day shift of 2,000 workers at Scott Lithgow walked out in protest.

Labour and Liberal spokesmen in the Commons showed themselves deeply uneasy that British Shipbuilders might be on the point of concluding a deal with a purchaser which was not the best guarantor of future employment and not likely to offer the most favourable terms.

Mr Norman Godman, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow, said last night that he intended to question ministers on the proposed sale to Trafalgar House.

He is to ask Scottish Office ministers to ensure that any contract for sale of the yard scheduled for the end of the month - take fully into account the high freehold value, put at scores of millions of pounds, of the land around the site.

He is also to ask Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, whether he will ensure that British Shipbuilders' judgment of the suitability of Trafalgar House as a buyer of the yard is not influenced by any penalties for which it may be liable as a result of delay in the building of a replacement vessel for the Atlantic Conveyor at the Swan Hunter yard on the Tyne.

Trafalgar House issued last night a firm rebuttal of suggestions that the conditional deal with British Shipbuilders had been rushed through in secret and that the firm might strip the assets from Scott Lithgow once it had acquired the business.

Scott Lithgow's assets have a book value of between £17m and £18m, but British Shipbuilders estimates their real value to be much less, probably between £2.5m and £3m. As well as the rig building yard, the company owns about three and a half miles of lower Clyde waterfront land.

Trafalgar House said: "We do not plan to sell off the land at this stage". But the company made clear that it would "co-operate" if another company emerged to take over Scott Lithgow's submarine work for the Ministry of Defence.

It is also possible that some of the land may be made available if an essential supplier to the yard was sort of space and able to employ surplus labour. "But we are taking over

Continued on back page, col 1

### VICTORIA WINE

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## English gamblers win Irish mansion raffle

By Staff Reporters

Six members of a gambling syndicate from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, were celebrating with champagne last night after winning a £750,000 Irish mansion in a raffle.

The six, five men and a woman, held the winning £175 ticket in the raffle for Middleton Park, a 30-room stately home set in almost 380 acres of co. Westmeath countryside 50 miles from Dublin.

The ticket was one of 9,000 sold world-wide by a Northern Ireland professional gambler and racing enthusiast, Mr

The six members of the winning syndicate were persuaded to contribute to the cost of two £175 tickets by Mr Tony Ray of Bungalow Farm, Fiddington, Tewkesbury, who owns two businesses dealing in agricultural supplies.

"It's an incredible piece of news. I saw the competition advertised in a farming paper and mentioned it to the others who, I know, are not adverse to the odd bet now and again", Mr Ray, aged 40, said.

"Because of the odds we thought we had a reasonable chance of winning, but when the call came through my first thought was that it must be a

Walter Malcolm, aged 62, and Mr Hugh Smiley, aged 65 - work for Mr Ray. A fifth, Mr Bill Ramage, aged 60, is a customer.

Mr Ray said: "Whatever we decide to do with it, it will be business as normal in the future. We may sell it, we may run it. We shall have to decide once everybody has got over the initial shock. However, we work as a team and I am sure an agreement will be reached which will be acceptable to us all."

The six have so far seen only a prospectus of the mansion, but Mr Ray is hoping to go to the Irish Republic within the

Mr Curley may face prosecution after a raid on Middleton Park by police investigating the legality of the draw. Organizers of a lottery in the Irish Republic cannot get a permit if it is held for their benefit.

However, Mr Curley says that his draw is legal because every subscriber automatically became a member of a local athletic association, to which he is giving a share of the proceeds.

Middleton Park was once owned by the Boyd Rochford family, trainers of the Queen's



# Miners to ask transport unions to impose coal imports blockade

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Miners' leaders have decided to tighten up the 14-week overtime ban in the pits by calling on transport unions to blockade on imports of foreign coal.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Miners, said after his union executive's meeting in Sheffield yesterday that the overtime ban was having a "quite staggering" effect, with coal stocks at pitheads and power stations being progressively run down.

A conference of five unions - the train drivers, railwaymen, seamen, steelworkers and transport and general workers - is to be held in the next 10 days to organize the import ban, which Mr Scargill hopes will block the five million tonnes of foreign coal which comes into Britain a year.

He said that the general secretaries of the five unions had already given their personal support to the blockade and he believed its imposition would bring added pressure on the National Coal Board and the Government.

Coal is brought into Britain from several other countries, either because it is cheaper or because it is of different gradings for mixing in coal-burning power stations.

Mr Scargill said that the overtime ban had led to about

seven million tonnes of lost production.

When allowance was made for 20 per cent "degradation" of stocks which were unusable because they had been lying too long on the ground, 22 million tonnes were being held at pitheads compared with 31 million tonnes when the ban started, he said.

Mr Scargill calculated that on a similar basis, stocks at power stations had fallen from 35 million tonnes to 22.5 million tonnes.

Those figures are at variance with statistics issued by the board two days ago, which claimed that stocks at pitheads and power stations were higher than at the same time last year.

The board said that by the end of last month collieries held 23.5 million tonnes and almost 28.8 million tonnes was stockpiled at power stations. It also said that miners lost £51.3m in wages since the dispute started.

Mr Scargill said that the National Coal Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board could no longer hide the real position because the ban was "far more effective than anyone in this industry ever envisaged".

The blockade of imports would make it even more effective. He said that there had been calls from several parts of

the country for the dispute to be stepped up.

That would not happen for the time being because "we believe it is highly successful at this stage", he said.

Acceptance of the board's 5.2 per cent pay offer by the 160,000-strong British Association of Colliery Management would have no effect on the NUM position, Mr Scargill said, as the colliery managers had never in the past supported the union.

He also disclosed that he could, later this year, become president of a new Miners' International, bringing together mining unions from almost 70 countries. There would be a strong bias in the new organization of unions with communist backing or left-wing leadership.

A conference in Sheffield is likely to be held in May when final preparations will be made for the launch of the new body. The secretary is likely to be drawn from the French mining union, which is part of the communist-led Confederation Générale du Travail.

Left-wing hopes that Mr Ronald Todd will be elected general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union were boosted yesterday when Mr Alex Kitson, present deputy general secretary, dropped out of the race.

French coal losses, page 19



Street politics: Mr Maxwell Payne, the Liberals' by-election candidate and a declared anti-unilateralist, discussing the issues with voters in Chesterfield open market (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

## Benn fears Lebanon nuclear war

From Anthony Bavington, Political Correspondent, Chesterfield

Mr Wedgwood Benn said yesterday he feared American intervention in the Middle East could start a nuclear war involving Britain.

Mr Benn, Labour candidate in the Chesterfield by-election, said at a public meeting: "President Reagan is a reckless man. His oath of office makes it impossible for him to consult the British Government before they use cruise missiles, and what I am afraid of is that

the Government had been right to go into Beirut and right to withdraw.

Mr Benn pointed out that it was not a UN peacekeeping force "it was an American force".

He said of Mr Bourne: "It is nice to know that he is in favour of going in and in favour of coming out. That is what a loyal Conservative does when a Prime Minister does a zig-zag."

Mr Maxwell Payne, the Liberal candidate, did not attend the meeting but tonight he will be at a CND rally with Mr Benn.

Mr Payne said yesterday he takes a robustly Atlanticist view of disarmament even though Liberal policy had previously tended to oppose the continuation of the independent nuclear deterrent.

## Further safeguard for green belts

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Ministers yesterday introduced a new draft policy on green belts designed to make it harder for builders to build in unspoiled countryside. The new draft replaced one which met fierce Conservative criticism when it appeared last year.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, a parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of the Environment, tried yesterday to minimize the differences between the two versions. "My view is that there is no question that conservationists have won or that the builders have won," he said.

But the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which took its opposition to the first version to the 1983 Conservative party conference, claimed that the new document represented a victory. "The new villages will only be able to happen, if at all, within local authority structure plans," it said.

A new version of last year's draft circular about the supply of land for housing also appeared yesterday. Such circulars contain advice from the Government to local councils and show how ministers will treat appeals against refusals of planning permission by councils.

Opposition to last year's

## Shawcross dispute at Observer

The editor of *The Observer* has become embroiled in an increasingly acrimonious dispute with Lord Shawcross, the former Attorney-General and one of the newspaper's directors, over coverage of the Mark Thatcher affair.

The *Observer* carried a lengthy investigative article last Sunday about the business dealings of the Prime Minister's son which so angered Lord Shawcross that he wrote letters to his fellow directors, and sent a copy to Downing Street, complaining of "mud-slinging, innuendo and smear journalism."

Donald Trefford, editor of *The Observer*, is understood to have been furious at what he saw as an attempt to put political pressure on him. All he would say yesterday was: "Anyone who is attacked by both Lord Shawcross and Paul Johnson in the same week must be getting something right."

But the dispute grew yesterday after Lord Shawcross, who is 82 and a supporter of the Social Democratic Party, wrote long letters to Mr Alan Russett, who broke the story in *The Guardian* diary earlier this week. The letter was sharply critical of Mr Trefford's editorship and explained in further detail Lord Shawcross's complaints.

## Shergar clue

Police in the Irish Republic say they believe that the stolen Derby winner Shergar is buried in Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, where Mr Don Tidey was freed last December.

## Island mail tests the pilots

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Port Stanley

The Royal Air Force has to do some fancy low-level flying in difficult conditions these days to deliver the mail to Captain Marius Coulson, Lord High Everything in the Falkland Islands dependency of South Georgia.

Apart from being a captain in the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and officer commanding the small Army garrison in South Georgia, Captain Coulson is also the resident civil official, magistrate, postmaster, special constable, assistant Queen's harbourmaster and deputy collector of customs.

He is thus the very embodiment of civil and military authority in the island. These high offices were conferred on him in December as he and a detachment from his battalion were setting out for a four-month garrison duty in South Georgia, which was occupied by the Argentinians for 22 days during the conflict in 1982.

His assumption of the roles was designed formally to reestablish a civil administration in the island which had been under military control since its recapture from the Argentinians in April, 1982.

The delivery of mail to Captain Coulson and his men is part of a 1,600-mile round trip in South Georgia that an RAF



Captain Coulson: South Georgia's Lord High Everything.

## £200m grant to hill farmers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government yesterday bowed to pressure from the National Farmers' Union and agreed to release nearly £200m in grants to hill farmers.

Payment had been held up since the beginning of the year because of the failure of EEC ministers to agree on reform of the common agricultural policy and on a new agricultural budget.

Although three quarters of the money comes from the Exchequer, and only a quarter from Brussels, the Treasury had feared that to authorize payment might be illegal under Community rules.

But Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, persuaded his Cabinet colleagues that hill farmers are in a critical situation, with bills to be paid and little or no income at this time of year.

About half the money consists of so-called hill livestock compensatory allowances, which are headage payments of £44.50 a cow and either £5.25 or £4.25 a breeding ewe, and are intended to supplement farmers' incomes in areas of poor grazing. The rest consists mainly of capital grants.

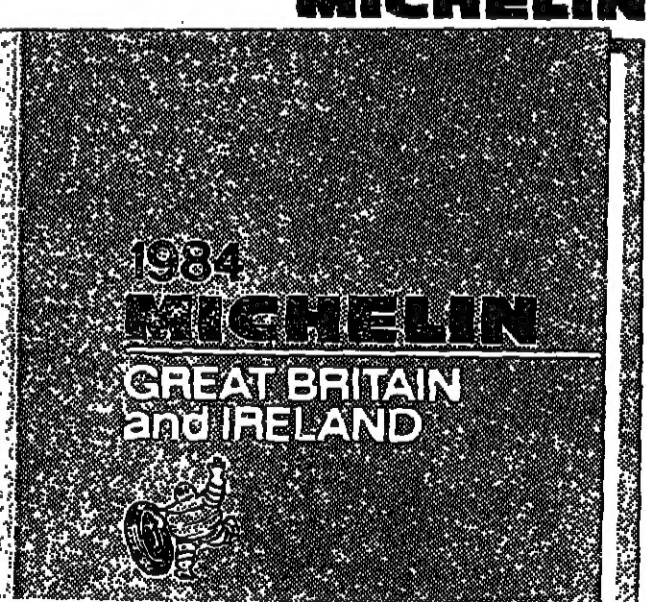
Before Mr Jopling's announcement, the crisis was particularly acute in Scotland, where farm incomes fell last year by 30 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in England and Wales; where bank borrowings are higher than the national average; and which has suffered from some of the worst of the winter weather.

Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, who on Wednesday led a delegation to the ministry, yesterday welcomed Mr Jopling's decision. It would end a period of damaging uncertainty, he said.

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Any one of us can be forced into premature retirement by chronic ill-health or sudden disablement. To admit such a personal tragedy often takes courage. Beethoven, proud of his men, struck dead in his 28th year works to his brothers. "Ah, how could I possibly admit an infirmity in the one sense which ought to be more perfect in me than in others..."

Music-lovers! please help the Musicians Benevolent Fund to succour those in the musical profession who may be in need, but dare not admit it to their colleagues.

**Charles Groves.**  
SIR CHARLES GROVES CBE

Please send a donation, large or small. It will help to maintain our two homes at residence for elderly and retired musicians and will give comfort to many who long for your support.

Martha Williams, Secretary,  
MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT FUND,  
16 Ogile Street, London W1P 7LG.

## VAT relief hint for charities

The Government is considering giving charities relief from value-added tax after a four-year campaign by charities for the concession.

After a meeting with Mr Brian Heyhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury, a spokesman for the Charities VAT Reform Group said Mr Heyhoe had invited them to work with Treasury officials on establishing how much the move would cost.

"He indicated that if at all possible we would be given VAT relief in the Budget," a spokesman said. "We are very pleased. It is the first indication that the Treasury is prepared to work with us on this."

The group represents more than 300 charities who estimate that paying VAT costs them between £6m and £10m a year.

## Britons lease tax haven

The 24 year lease on the 50-acre island of Jethou, three miles from Guernsey, has been bought by British residents who want to remain anonymous. It was once the home of Compton Mackenzie and has been owned since 1971 by Sir Charles Hayward, who died last year. Jethou is a tax haven, whose tenant is not liable even to Guernsey income tax.

## 88 orders under contempt Act

Judges at the Central Criminal Court have made 88 orders naming contemptuous press reports of proceedings since the Contempt of Court Act came into force, according to figures released yesterday.

They were supplied by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, in a letter to Mr John Morris Labour MP for Aberavon, and opposition spokesmen on legal affairs, who wants an inquiry into the workings of the Act.

## Surgeons cancel trip after threat

The Royal College of Surgeons has called off a visit to Egypt by some of its consultants after death threats to the team were received in two letters.

Seven consultants, some of their wives and two college administrators were to have left for Cairo the day before yesterday on an annual visit to investigate university examinations in surgery and anaesthetics.

Overseas selling prices  
Australia £25, Belgium £18, Canada \$25, Denmark \$25, France \$25, Germany \$25, Greece \$25, Hong Kong \$25, India \$25, Italy \$25, Japan \$25, Korea \$25, Malaysia \$25, Mexico \$25, New Zealand \$25, Norway \$25, Portugal \$25, Singapore \$25, South Africa \$25, Spain \$25, Sweden \$25, Switzerland \$25, Taiwan \$25, Thailand \$25, United Kingdom \$25, USA \$25, West Germany \$25, Yugoslavia \$25.

## IBA would not replace TV-am for up to year

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The commercial television network will be without a breakfast station for up to a year if TV-am collapses.

As talks on redundancies and economies at the company continued yesterday, the Independent Broadcasting Authority ruled out a stopgap service, possibly involving ITN, to take over the morning slot.

TV-am's immediate future is likely to be decided today, when members of the unions most affected by the call for redundancies vote on the issue. Unless the company can win significant gains in job cuts affecting up to 90 staff, it will not receive a £2m rescue package prepared by key investors.

But IBA sources predicted that the authority would be in no hurry to replace TV-am if the company failed, a possibility which alarms the authority. No commercial television company has gone under before.

The only casualty in the commercial broadcasting network was Leicester's Centre Radio, which went into voluntary liquidation in October.

The authority advertised for applications for the Leicester franchise this week, but it is unlikely, in the event of a TV-am collapse, that a similar invitation would be issued for some time.

## Dr Jones questioned by police for 7 hours

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Robert Jones, whose wife was found murdered in a Suffolk wood last year, was released after nearly seven hours of questioning by police in Ipswich last night.

Det Chief Supt Eric Shields, who is leading the murder inquiry, said after interviewing the doctor that a report would be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It was the fifth time since his wife, Diana, aged 35, vanished after the couple had an argument in their local public house at Coggeshall in Essex that Dr Jones, aged 40, had been questioned by detectives.

Dr Jones refused to comment as he left the police station at Ipswich. His solicitor, Mr David Church, said: "Dr Jones, during the course of today, has answered questions put to him by the police and he has been released unconditionally."

While police were questioning him, uniformed men supported by Army bomb disposal personnel, dug up parts of the garden at Dr Jones' £100,000 farmhouse.

Mrs Jones's body was found three months after she disappeared by beaters on a pheasant shoot in undergrowth at Brightwell in Suffolk, 30 miles from their home. Police launched their murder inquiry with an appeal to men friends of Mrs Jones to come forward.

## Investigation of Aston Villa leads to charges

Several men are to be prosecuted after a police investigation of the financial affairs of Aston Villa Football Club.

West Midlands police confirmed last night that those mentioned in the summonses include the late Mr Ronald Bendall, former club chairman, and Mr J D Lloyd, the present chairman of Post Vale Football Club. The charges include conspiracy to defraud, obtaining money by deception, and incitement to commit fraud.

The prosecutions come in the wake of more than 16 months' work by the force's commercial branch.

After the police inquiry a file was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions. In a statement last night, the police said that prosecutions had been directed against seven men.

It added: "Mr Terry Rutter, of Witton, Birmingham, and Mr Harry Marsden, of Stockport, Cheshire, with their now-liquidated company Sports Ground Consultants, are accused of obtaining money by deception from Aston Villa and with conspiracy to defraud the Football Grounds Improvement Trust." Mr Bendall is mentioned with them.

## Good silver selling well over the estimates

By Haon Mallalieu

A sale of good quality silver at Sotheby's yesterday made £220,935 with just over 10 per cent bought in and many lots being bid well over estimate. This was reassuring because a too often in the past prices of fine antique works of art seem to have been dictated by the crude criteria of the market in precious metals.

On this occasion the auctioneers appeared to have been unduly cautious in their estimates. A pair of George II table candlesticks by Paul de Lamoignon, one of the two most sought after British makers, dated 1748, went to the London dealer Levene at £30,800 (estimate £12,000 to £15,000).

The estimate was doubtless based on the price of £6,500 made by a set of four very similar candlesticks at Christie's in 1965, but last December a pair of comparable, if altered, sticks, sold for \$38,000 at Sotheby's in New York.

Another lot that doubled its estimate was an oval George II soup tureen and cover by George Wickes of London, 1741, which went to Garrard at £18,150 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000).

A private bidder paid £8,250 for a matching set of 12 silver dinner plates made in the 1730s and the 1760s (estimate £4,000 to £6,000).

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## Universities forced to treat A level grades as criteria for places

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The shortage of university places caused by the 1981 cuts in spending on the universities is forcing academic selectors to put undue emphasis on A level grades which were not intended for choosing students for college.

In the annual report of the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA), Dr Harry Kay, vice-chancellor of Exeter University and the council's chairman, says "fine shades of difference between grades" now have to carry more significance than was intended because selectors are forced to discriminate between well qualified applicants.

The number of applications and acceptances for last autumn presents "an unusual and unhappy picture" and reflects the July 1981 cuts in government spending on the universities, Dr Kay says.

Only 69,631 home candidates were accepted, 3,000 (4.1 per cent) fewer than the previous year and almost 5,000 below the figure in 1981, when the cuts were made.

Applications, however, have risen, from 149,330 in 1981 to 157,015 in 1983, with the biggest increase in the number of women applying.

The Association of University Teachers said the figures meant Britain's best young brains were facing their biggest crisis in 25 years.

"It is a deplorable situation and, long term, economically disastrous for the country," says Mr John Akker, the association's general secretary, said. "The Government is pursuing an elitist policy that is forcing the universities unwillingly to slam the door in the face of many able and qualified youngsters because they cannot afford to provide places."

Last year women made up 42.3 per cent of home candidates and 42 per cent of all successful candidates, representing a small increase in both instances. The number of overseas applicants increased slightly and 100 more were accepted than in 1982.

More students last year withdrew UCCA applications

after accepting offer and achieving the required grades, almost 7,700 compared with 5,600 the previous year.

UCCA Twenty-first Report 1982-83 (Universities Central Council on Admissions, PO Box 28, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1HY £1.50).

### Home reading plea

Few primary school pupils are allowed to take their reading books home with them even though teachers know how important it is to involve parents in children's reading.

This conclusion, reached after a study of infants' and first schools, in which head teachers and teachers of seven-year-olds and some of their pupils were interviewed, is published in the current issue of *Educational Research*. The survey also found few schools prepared to give guidance to parents on hearing their children read.

Three of the head teachers refused to permit their teachers to send books home. Five class teachers decided not to allow it.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother speaking yesterday to Hannah Norris and Damien Smith, both aged four, at the opening of the Swiss Cottage Community Centre in Camden, north London (Photograph John Manning).

## News of the World must pay libelled policemen £253,000

Ten police officers were each awarded £25,300 libel damages in the High Court yesterday for allegations in the *News of the World* that they had been involved in rape and blackmail.

At the end of a four-day hearing the jury, after being out for more than three hours, unanimously awarded each man £300 for the libel and a further £25,000 in exemplary damages.

That, according to counsel for the policemen, Mr David Eady, QC, was to make an example of the newspaper - which published the "exclusive" allegations in July, 1978 - for its "callous opportunism".

In his summing-up to the jury, Mr Justice Comyn told them that the newspaper knew the allegations were untrue, but that it had got more out of publishing them than it would have to pay in damages.

He ordered the newspaper's publishers, News Group Newspapers, to pay the damages and an estimated £50,000 costs, but he put a stay on payment of the

£25,000 exemplary damages to each man for 28 days, pending a possible appeal.

The allegations appeared in a letter sent to the *News of the World* in June, 1978, by David Brain, a gunman involved in a siege, in which he claimed that his wife had been raped and beaten by CID officers and had been blackmailed to accuse him of the offences they had committed against her.

Brain, who was besieged by police in a cottage, had two hostages, one of them his son, aged five. At his trial in June, 1979, he was convicted on several charges and sent to Broadmoor under the Mental Health Act.

Mr Eady said that in publishing the letter the newspaper saw the opportunity for an "exclusive" story with the ingredients of rape and blackmail.

News Group Newspapers denied libel. The company denied that the letter referred to the 10 officers, or that it was defamatory.

## Age of great exhibitions not over, RA says

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Academy has rejected a forecast by Sir Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, that the age of the great exhibition is dead.

Sir Roy said that the Rococo exhibition which opens at the museum in May displaying arts treasures worth more than £15m will be the last show the V and A can afford to mount on such a lavish scale.

He cited the example of the Royal Academy's exhibition, *The Genius of Venice*, as an indication of the difficulties facing the promoters of large expensive shows.

But his remarks have displeased the academy, which says that it expects to break even, or possibly make a small

profit, from the 300,000 predicted visitors to the Venice exhibition, and has long-term plans to continue large-scale shows.

Mr Norman Rosenthal, the academy's exhibitions secretary, said yesterday: "I do not agree with Sir Roy's remarks. The age of the great exhibition is not over. It is quite easy to say these things but each event is a situation on its own. Exhibitions, like politics, are the art of the possible."

Unlike the V and A, the academy does not receive public funds. Its only public support for its exhibitions is a government indemnity which covers most of the insurance costs of works of art on show

## Payment for armour is held up

By Bryan Appleyard

Nine months after he sold a suit of armour for £330,000 at Sotheby's, Lord Astor has still not received a penny of the price.

The seventeenth century suit of Flemish armour made for Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, was sold last May to Mr Howard Ricketts, the London agent for Mr Ronald Lauder son of the founder of the cosmetics business, Estée Lauder.

The suit was sold as part of a £4m collection of arms from the Astor family's Hever Castle collection. That included a suit made in Milan for Henry II of France which fetched £1.9m.

Both suits were subject to export bans but the Milan suit left the country after it became clear that no attempts were being made to raise money to save it.

The Southampton suit, however, has been the subject of an appeal by the Armouries of the Tower of London launched last October.

The ban on an export licence expires on February 18 but it now looks certain that the appeal has been a success. A total of £372,930 needed to be raised to cover the purchase price plus buyer's premium, value-added tax and £5,000 for the agent's fee to Mr Ricketts.

"We are quietly confident," Mr Ian Eaves, Keeper of Armour at the Tower of London, said.



The armour suit sold for £330,000.

Lord Astor believes that the entire procedure has taken too long and that British institutions should not be allowed to raise money in that way without bidding fairly at auction.

"It is an unsatisfactory system and a bad principle, whereby the private vendor of a so-called national treasure is statutorily penalized in this way with no balancing compensation," he said.

His complaint touches on a vague and little known area of auction practice. In cases where value-added tax is in doubt, Sotheby's says that the question of whether cash changes hands is left to the buyer and seller but it could not comment on specific cases.

## Campaign urges plain English on medicine labels

By Robin Young

The Plain English Campaign will shortly be publishing a report which is highly critical of doctors and drug companies for using unintelligible language on the labels of medicines and baby foods.

Miss Chrissie Maher of the campaign first drew attention to the subject three years ago, after a Derbyshire baby starved to death because its mother misunderstood the dilution instructions on tins of powdered milk. Several more instances of death resulting from misunderstandings of dosage instructions have come to light since.

Miss Maher said an instruction that medicine be taken "three times a day" could be understood to mean either four-hour or eight-hour intervals.

The campaign, whose offices are at 131 College Road, Manchester, M16 0AA, is appealing for information about cases in which people have misunderstood labels, and has already received more than 100.

## Bogus doctor remanded for sentence

A man said to have a "deep-rooted obsession" to pose as a doctor refused to appear in dock to be sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Dominic Simon had been sent by Bow Street magistrates who found him guilty on Wednesday of obtaining property by deception at a London nightclub.

The Court heard that, posing as Lord Forte's grandson, Simon ordered four bottles of champagne worth £220 for which he could not pay. He sent one bottle to the table of Miss Koo Stark.

Simon finally made a brief appearance at the request of Judge Nina Lowry so she could consider bail. However, he made no application and was remanded in custody to be sentenced later.

Last November Judge Lowry ordered Simon, aged 20, of Digby Crescent, Finsbury Park, north London, to have hospital treatment after he had posed as a doctor at ten London hospitals.

## Satellite TV costs disputed

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

A claim by Sir Clive Sinclair that he can produce the necessary electronics and aerial to receive direct broadcasts by satellite (DBS) for about a quarter of the price which has been believed possible was disputed yesterday by two of Britain's main electronics manufacturers.

Sir Clive, who has been having discussions with the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority about the electronics required in the home for receiving satellite television, has just completed a feasibility study which concludes that the reception equip-

ment can be made for about £100.

Thorn-EMI and GEC-McMichael, which will sell their systems between £400 and £500, question the Sinclair figures. Mr David Wright, managing director of GEC-McMichael, said: "We would be very surprised if at the launching of a satellite a complete system for reception in the home was available for £100."

The GEC figures are based on initial sales of 100,000 its confidence is based on the cost of the components in the receiving equipment. The antenna is metal and plastic and it

is principally the electronic "black box" at the back of the television which might be reduced in price through miniaturization and mass production.

The feasibility study was requested by the BBC but at Sir Clive's initiative. A Sinclair executive said: "We will undertake no major investment until there is a firm commitment to go ahead."

The BBC, which is still discussing a proposed DBS partnership with the IBA, issued a statement implying that Sinclair was planning to manufacture unconditionally.

## House with added horse

By Our Property Correspondent

A Mayfair property dealer will give a two-year-old colt, valued at more than £5,000 to anyone who buys his £102,500 two-bedroom news cottage in St John's Wood, north London, by March 22.

The man, who owns several racehorses, has paid the colt's training fees and expenses until the end of the flat season. The Victorian cottage is being sold by estate agents Benham and Reeves, who have offered to accept a share of any prize money in lieu of commission.

## Computers to speed house sales

By Peter Evans

A computerized conveyancing system to speed buying and selling of houses is to be developed by the National Law Library and the Solicitors Law Stationary Society.

The system will take into account latest communications technology after the launch of British Telecom's teletext service. Solicitors will be able to link their offices and pass information to each other and communicate with other relevant bodies.

Rapid communications with banks, the land registry, estate agents, building societies and others are possible, the library and society say, and are intended to be integrated into the new system.

Mr Christopher Hewetson, president of the Law Society, has welcomed the idea. The library undertakes technological development for the legal professions. The Stationary Society supplies computers and other specialized services to them.

The Law Society's *Gazette* has an article this week saying that solicitors should set up their own building society to meet competition from those who want to take over the legal side of house buying and selling. The idea comes from Mr William Heath, a member of the society's council, and Mr Edwin Lee, partner in a London firm of solicitors.

The House Buyers Bill, if it becomes law, will allow licensed conveyancers, banks and building societies to take over the traditional work of solicitors.

The two solicitors say the building society would have a big computer with terminals and printers in each solicitor's office. They say they are investigating the idea and hope the society will be incorporated by the end of the year.

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Under these surveys, the EEO will pay substantial grants to non-domestic energy users who employ consultants to carry out surveys intended to help improve their energy efficiency.

These grants will be available for three kinds of advice.

For Short Surveys, which may identify areas for saving through simple modifications in procedures, grants covering 50%

For Extended Surveys, normally covering all aspects of energy use on the site surveyed, a grant of 50% of costs up to a maximum of £10,000 is available.

And for Combined Heating and Power Feasibility Studies, designed to assess the possibility of generating power yourself or in partnership with neighbouring companies, the grant is again 50% up to a maximum of £10,000.

Further information on the new grants is available from the Energy Efficiency Office. Cutting out the coupon will be the next step towards cutting your energy costs.

This new scheme has replaced the old Energy Survey Scheme. Companies who have already commissioned one-day surveys under the old Energy Survey Scheme must submit their grant applications by 29th February, 1984.

To: The Energy Efficiency Office, PO Box 702, London SW20 8SZ.  
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## Muggers who menace mother hunted



The police are confident of finding a gang of muggers who have attacked a mother and her children twice.

Mrs Sally Menyhart, aged 25, and her 21-month-old daughter Nicola were stopped near their home in Conyers Road, Streatham, south London, on Wednesday morning and cut, respectively, with a razor blade and a knife. Nicola was treated for superficial facial cuts and her mother for a four-inch stab wound in the thigh.

The police believe the assailant was one of two men who attacked Mrs Menyhart, Nicola, and her other daughter, Natalie, aged three, on October 26, threatening reprisals if the police were told.

Since the first attack she and her husband John have received harassing telephone calls and a dead bird was mailed to their door.

Wednesday's attacker was black, tall, with very bad acne.



## PARLIAMENT February 9 1984

## All bids for yard will be considered

## SCOTT LITHGOW

It was open to companies other than Trafalgar House to make offers to British Shipbuilders for Scott Lithgow. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons during question time, but she added that time was short.

Mrs Thatcher deplored the unions' apparent rejection of a chance to obtain between the unions' 1,000 and 2,000 jobs on the Clyde and said that the hope for Scott Lithgow rested in getting the rig and possibly more of the yard into the private sector.

The questioning was opened by Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk, West, Lab) who asked the Prime Minister to explain why she seemed to favour the granting of contracts to firms like Trafalgar House, whether it was for the building of a university in Oman or for shipbuilding.

Scott Lithgow and throwing nearly 3,000 workers out of a job.

Will the intervention now (he asked) to ensure the job prospects of Scottish workers is the only way, willing to intervene to help improve the job prospects of her own son? (Conservative protest).

Mrs Thatcher: The British taxpayer has paid £165m in respect of Scott Lithgow's shipbuilding yard since nationalisation. That is a large sum and meant last year a subsidy of £13,000 for every worker in the yard.

The future of the contract for the rig for Britoil is in question. There have been discussions about the whole of Scott Lithgow between British Shipbuilders and Trafalgar House. Discussions have made good progress.

A number of parties have expressed interest. Trafalgar House has pursued its interest and reached a conditional agreement with British Shipbuilders.

Mr Barry Henderson (North-East Fife, C): Those in Scotland genuinely concerned about the possible social and economic consequences of Scott Lithgow leaving the politically-privileged restraints from Labour MPs now that the possibility of averting closure is emerging.

Will she ensure that every step is taken to carry through the hope which now exists for the future?

Mrs Thatcher: The hope of Scott Lithgow lies in getting the rig and possibly more of the yard into the private sector and having a new start under totally new management. It can get rid of the reputation of fulfilling orders on time and within budget.

If it goes into the private sector and makes a good job of the rig, it may get other orders and the workforce have a very good future.

● All serious bids for the Scott Lithgow shipyard would be considered before a final deal was settled. Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, later asked the Commons when answering a private notice question on the conditional agreement reached between Trafalgar House, the shipping and property group, and BS.

Mr Lamont said that Trafalgar House was not being given a "double-edged sword". It was simply that they had made an offer way ahead of any other bidder and therefore their negotiations were well advanced. But all bids would receive equal consideration.

He could not understand the Opposition's objection to the negotiations when only a few days ago they had been calling for urgent action to secure the yard's future. Now that prospect was in view the Opposition complained things were going fast.

He said that those workers at the yard who had walked out in protest when learning of the negotiations with Trafalgar House, would on reflection decide to return and so ensure that there remained offers to be discussed.

Mr Lamont in his main answer, said: Yesterday, the Government was informed that BS and Trafalgar House had reached a conditional agreement on the acquisition of Scott Lithgow. Negotiations are still underway. Final agreement would require Government approval; in the meantime other parties have expressed an interest.

The Government has been kept fully informed of the terms of conditional arrangements between British Shipbuilders and Trafalgar House and is currently examining them.

Mr Norman Lamont (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab): Can he give an absolute guarantee no private, cosy deal will be closed between these two parties and other serious bids will be carefully analysed before a deal is struck?

Will he give the House an assurance that, if needed, he will use his statutory powers to obtain the best possible deal in terms of the interests of the management and the workforce of Scott Lithgow and hence the citizens of Greenock and Port Glasgow?

Mr Lamont: No private deal has been made and all serious bids will indeed be considered. Why agreement would require approval of the Government.

He would have hoped he might have welcomed the fact that there is a prospect of a future for Scott Lithgow; only a few weeks ago it appeared inconceivable. It appeared there was a situation of no hope - now there is some hope.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry: Would he confirm there is not only one interested party, Trafalgar House, but Bechtel and Howard Davis have also expressed serious interest in the prospect of taking over the Scott Lithgow yard?

How can he reconcile the statement that no deal has been done with Trafalgar House with the statement by Mr Graham Day that BS had a moral agreement with Trafalgar House but not yet a legal one? That is a most extraordinary attitude and it is one that does not sit easily on the impartial examination of the rival merits of Bechtel and Howard Davis prospects of taking over the yard.

The House ought to know what kind of terms are being offered by Trafalgar House and why is it that Trafalgar House is being given, as it were, so favourable a green light in its approach when it has given no guarantee to maintain even half the labour force in employment, who guarantee to continue to develop oil rigs in the Scott Lithgow yard and when there are large property interest concessions with Scott Lithgow outside its shipbuilding interest?

Mr Lamont: Other parties are interested. These do include Bechtel and I understand also Howard Davis. He has expressed an interest. Obviously their interests will be examined. The deal does require the Government's approval and the Government will wish to examine this extremely carefully.

Trafalgar House were the first company to come forward very much before other companies and therefore they are a long way ahead simply because they made an offer and started negotiations quickly. Rightly, British Shipbuilders, in a situation where redundancies appeared to be inevitable, have opened negotiations with them.

He says they have given no commitment to maintain oil rig construction. He knows their interest is to continue to use this yard for the business of offshore construction and that Trafalgar House, through their subsidiary do have some offshore oil rig industries and in constructing structures in the North Sea. They have experience.

The Government, British Shipbuilders and especially Bechtel, will want to examine the technical competence and ability of companies to fulfil the contract.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C): The workforce at Scott Lithgow expressed at a meeting with me and Mr Albert McQuarrie (Banff and Buchan, C) that they would welcome any private sector coming in to retain the capability of the yard and in particular, the expertise of the yard. I would therefore expect

businesses particularly with the joint venture with Bechtel, a long history and the current position on the international debt problem makes one hesitate to wax too enthusiastic about banks lending outside the limits of banking prudence.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): Manufacturing industry urgently needs to be allowed to become competitive with industries overseas. Will he abolish the tax on jobs and help interest rates and the effective exchange rate to come down?

Mr Lawson said he would be happy to abolish various taxes when Mr Wainwright and his party told him where to make public spending savings to do so.

Mr Osmund McDonald (Thurrock, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said: The Government's figures for manufacturing investment was 37 per cent below the level of 1979 and manufacturing output was well down.

Manufacturers in Britain (she said) will be shocked by the Government's apparent disregard of their contribution to the economy. He would have done better to increase public investment so that investment in the manufacturing sector.

Mr Lawson: I cannot understand the selective disregard of the Labour MPs and some Tory MPs attach to the manufacturing sector. About a quarter of all jobs are in manufacturing. All sectors of the economy are important and it is foolish to make distinctions between them.

Mr Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during other exchanges that the White Paper on public expenditure would be published in a few days time.

progress on new long-term arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter.

Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, called for a reform of the CAP to transfer the burden from the hard-pressed consumers to the taxpayers in general.

Did he discuss with the French Minister the illegal delays of British meat exports to France and make clear that this intolerable situation must be ended for good?

Mr Jopling: I had discussions with the French Minister. It seems the demonstration appears now to be over and there have been no confirmed reports of any significant delays to British meat.

We are working for a fundamental reform of the CAP on the basis of the post-Stuttgart discussions.

Tuesday: Committee stage of the Education (Grants and Awards) Bill and second reading of the Subsidy for the Exportation of Goods Bill.

Wednesday: Debates on the Law of the Sea Treaty and on metropolitan areas.

Thursday: Committee stage of Telecommunications Bill.

Parliament today

House of Commons (9.30): Private Members' motion on future provision of welfare services and benefits.

House of Lords (11): Motion on report by chairman of Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development on the future of the business community which has



Shore: What terms are Trafalgar offering

that the workforce, in order to go along with that view, must be kept in the picture.

Mr Lamont: I am encouraged to hear what he says. All who work at Scott Lithgow ought to be pleased that this prospect does exist.

I was concerned to hear that a large number of people did walk out not waiting to work this morning because they did not approve of this deal.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab): The announcement that Trafalgar House and BS were deliberately timed to get in before others in this particular market, and without prior notification of the minister. This is intolerable where a deal involves large numbers of jobs and, directly or indirectly, Government money.

Some of us are sceptical about any long-term commitment by Trafalgar House to this particular yard.

Mr Lamont: His scepticism is not well-founded. BS were right to go quickly with negotiations with Trafalgar House. We have been told time and again from the other side of the House that time is very short, saying we are getting on too quickly.

Mr Michael Elkes (Strathkelvin and Bearsden, C): Before he gives approval of any deal will he ensure there is adequate management expertise to ensure that the rig at present in the yard is not put on time and that the commercial reputation of the yard is thereby enhanced?

Mr Lamont: In any deal it will be necessary to have the agreement of Britoil who are an interested party. They wish to have their rig and will wish to be satisfied as to the technical competence of anyone taking over the yard.

Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South, Lab): Was the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr George Younger) informed, or his department, before this moral agreement took place?

Mr Lamont: We were all kept fully informed of the situation before the agreement was reached. The deal goes through, Trafalgar House would employ 2,000 at first to be maintained if new work is found, otherwise it will be reduced to a nucleus of 1,250. That is a significant reduction on what might have happened.

Lord Taylor of Gryffe (SDP) said that consumers, manufacturers and trade unions felt there should be a body to whom they could make representations and a minister would be responsible for discharging the immense public duty which the Bill put on them.

There ought to be an authority which provided some degree of accountability or at least public awareness of what was going on. The new director general would be a remote figure to the millions of people who used the telephone.

Lord Ezra (L) said that what contemplated in the Bill was a unique transfer of a massed concentration of industrial and technological might from the public to the private sector. This new venture should be carried out with extreme caution.

It was highly desirable there should be a body of people skilled in the various aspects of this industry who could have a supervisory role over the operation.

The Countess Mar (Ind) said that hundreds of thousands of telephone subscribers would be affected by the Bill and they needed someone to whom they could turn.

Lord McIntosh of Harlow, for the Opposition, said the risk of having a political appointment was great. The Government should introduce parliamentary control introduced.

Lady Macleod of Berke (C) agreed with the principle of the amendment. This job was much too big for one man, she added.

Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said he supported the intention of the amendment was to facilitate the smooth and effective working of the Act, but he did not think it would have that effect.

It was not a proposal which would sit happily with the structure for the regulatory system included in the Bill.

The Bill made ample provision for the supervision of the exercise of the powers by Parliament and for people to challenge in the courts decisions made by the director general.

He could not advise the House to accept the proposal which would not be consistent with the general pattern of the Bill and would not exist at present.

Mr Ian Evans, an Opposition spokesman for Wales, said Government expenditure had increased by 130 per cent in the past five years while local government expenditure had gone up by 77 per cent. Local authorities were being punished for the failures of central government.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, replying, said all of the Welsh councils were in the top 11 of the share of the Welsh Government in Wales in terms of target per head and Pwys and Gwynedd were first and third.

## Four votes keep out a Liberal amendment

## TELECOM BILL

A Liberal proposal, which it was claimed would dilute a great deal of anxiety about the telecommunications Bill, was narrowly rejected when the committee stage of the Bill began in the House of Lords.

An amendment by Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran to set up a telecommunications authority which would appoint the director general of telecommunications, instead of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry as the Bill proposed, was defeated by 116 votes to 112 - Government majority of 4.

Lord Lloyd said the authority, which would be chosen from experts in the industry and the trade unions, would also have the task of advising the director general.

There was anxiety among the public and the industry about the way it was being treated by the Government.

Lord Taylor of Gryffe (SDP) said that consumers, manufacturers and trade unions felt there should be a body to whom they could make representations and a minister would be responsible for discharging the immense public duty which the Bill put on them.

There ought to be an authority which provided some degree of accountability or at least public awareness of what was going on. The new director general would be a remote figure to the millions of people who used the telephone.

Lord Ezra (L) said that what contemplated in the Bill was a unique transfer of a massed concentration of industrial and technological might from the public to the private sector. This new venture should be carried out with extreme caution.

It was highly desirable there should be a body of people skilled in the various aspects of this industry who could have a supervisory role over the operation.

The Countess Mar (Ind) said that hundreds of thousands of telephone subscribers would be affected by the Bill and they needed someone to whom they could turn.

Lord McIntosh of Harlow, for the Opposition, said the risk of having a political appointment was great. The Government should introduce parliamentary control introduced.

Lady Macleod of Berke (C) agreed with the principle of the amendment. This job was much too big for one man, she added.

Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said he supported the intention of the amendment was to facilitate the smooth and effective working of the Act, but he did not think it would have that effect.

It was not a proposal which would sit happily with the structure for the regulatory system included in the Bill.

The Bill made ample provision for the supervision of the exercise of the powers by Parliament and for people to challenge in the courts decisions made by the director general.

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Welsh rates support grant approved

The Welsh rate support grant for 1984-85 was approved in the Commons on Wednesday night by 275 votes to 170 - Government majority, 105.

Sir Anthony Meyer (Cwmwd North West, C) said during the debate that the system of local government finance was too complicated for any backbencher to understand. It had a built-in incentive to irresponsibility.

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Ministers smile on Tyneside's Metro

By Michael Bailey Transport Editor

Ministers are hesitantly coming round to the view that Britain's most costly venture in urban public transport since the war - Newcastle upon Tyne's £280m, 34-mile Metro - is turning out to be a brilliant success and an excellent investment.

It could prove to be a model for new public transport investment in other cities provided that they stop pouring money down the drain (as the Government sees it) of highly subsidised cheap fares policies.

The Newcastle Metro, launched in the early 1970s and now being completed in a final rush of labour troubles, was long regarded as the last legacy of the high-spending Labour regimes of the late 1960s, and not only by Conservative governments.

It was almost lauded with £100m spent by Labour's Secretary of State for Transport, Mr William Rodgers, during the IMF monetary crisis in 1976.

But its chartered little yellow trains, or trams as they are more often called, whizzing through Tyneside, are already, three years after the first section opened, much appreciated by not only the local population but also by the business community which has

to pay heavily for them through the rates.

Newcastle is the highest rated city in the United Kingdom and although we complain bitterly about it, we don't complain about the burden of the Metro", Mr James Carr, northern director of the CBI, says.

It is an enormous psychological significance. The industrial community regard it as a sign

that the North-east isn't down and out, and are pressing for extensions to Sunderland and Newcastle airport.

As for the Metro's value nationally, Mr Carr added, "it helps us to sell this area as go-ahead, attract new firms, and become more self-reliant, that helps 'UK Limited'."

Nearly every traveller I spoke to during a day in the city was pleased with the

## Prior tells why he did not resign

## MAZE ESCAPE

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, explained to the Commons why he did not resign following the break-out of the Maze prison.

Opening a debate on the report by Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, on security arrangements at the Maze, Mr Prior recalled that there were people who suggested the circumstances of the escape demanded ministerial resignation.

I took that view seriously and have given it the most careful consideration (he said). I share Mr Prior's concern about the honour of public life and the maintenance of the highest standard. If there were any evidence in the Hennessy report that ministers were to blame for the escape, I would not hesitate to accept that blame and act accordingly.

I do not accept, and I do not think it right for the House to accept, that there is any constitutional or other principle that requires ministerial resignations in the event of a failure

by a responsible department to the implementation of the recommendations. The House would report regularly to him on progress.

The Prison Department in Northern Ireland had been strengthened and a review of management structure in the department had been carried out. In addition, a number of relevant documents by Hennessy had started or would start shortly.

He was well aware of the acute difficulties which the escape had created. He repeated his tribute to the dedication with which the then Governor had carried out his 34 years' service, given the extent and nature of the security deficiencies which the report had highlighted, and considering the Governor's position, ultimate responsibility for the state of the prison, he believed it had been right to accept his resignation.

He had been close to retirement and he (Mr Prior) had made arrangements whereby he would not suffer in respect of his retirement as a result of resignation. That would be a proper recognition of one who had, in many ways, been holding the prison together in that job at the time of the escape.

I am determined that the shortcomings which have led to the present governor's resignation will be taken into account and will be taken to heart.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said the minister should be judged with sympathy for the difficulty of a thankless task. Their decisions were not so: he condemned simply because they were wrong. But they must be judged in the context of involvement which took account of the misadventure in which their staff were working.

He said that minutes of the Labour Allocation Board, which allocated work to the prisoners, went to the Northern Ireland Office. On them was the name of Brendan MacFarlane. It was a name that would keep out to anyone who read those minutes. But did anyone in the prison department, or the Prison Commission, read them? And if they were too overworked to read them, did Ministers know this?

Representatives of the prison officers had met the Governor on November 24th, 1982 and expressed concern about the state of the Maze. Minutes of those meetings were sent to the Northern Ireland Office and it was clear that staff were very concerned with security in B Block.

Undoubtedly some prison officers were disaffected but the vast majority were doing a dedicated job as was brought out in the report.

He did not believe, if morale has been as low as some people since have been trying to make out, that the courage shown by the prison officers during the escape, particularly at the gate when one gave his life and five were badly injured, could possibly have been shown.

He readily accepted the report's 73 recommendations. He wished to act quickly to rectify any security deficiencies in the Maze. He acknowledged that there had been shortcomings in the Maze, and operational deficiencies in the Maze.

There were three main aspects to the report's criticism of the Maze - physical weaknesses including the main gate; procedural weaknesses including search arrangements; deficiencies in management. He wished to act quickly to rectify any security deficiencies in the Maze. He acknowledged that there had been shortcomings in the Maze, and operational deficiencies in the Maze.

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## Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

By the end of the year we may be looking back on the withdrawal from Lebanon as the event that sealed President Reagan's reelection.

That may seem a cynical comment in the light of the fact that it is a catastrophe there. But it is a reminder that international crises often have a strong domestic political content. In this instance it is particularly strong for the United States, though it is important for Britain as well.

It will be remarkable, though, if a domestic political success is derived from an international



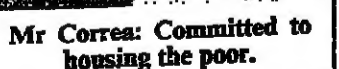
**By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent**

There has been ministerial concern over the efficiency of local authorities in delivering the services, instanced by an inspection that had been carried out, at the request of Tower

Mr Thorn, in his comments on the report, says it lacks understanding of normal practices in local authority departments, and has failed to investigate how budget restrictions had affected the service, the reason the department was invited in in the first place.

**By John Young**

The medal will be presented by the Prince of Wales at the institute's 150th anniversary banquet at Hampton Court Palace on May 30.



**By Hugh Clayton  
Local Government  
Correspondent**

## Former major in Brearley stamps case is jailed

## PC is charged

## PC is charged

Robert Anthony Sampson, aged 24, a police constable, of Clevelys Avenue, Leeds, was committed by Leeds Magistrates for trial at Leeds Crown Court charged with stealing £1,000 from Leon Parrish and John Eastwood on December 3. Bail and legal aid were granted.

**By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent**

They believe that will result from the procedural ruling which removed the committee from the impasse it reached on Tuesday, when it adjourned acrimoniously amid Labour protests at Mr Hunt's decision not to include for consideration amendments referring to manually processed records.

The amendment was chosen because it sought to define what was regarded as processable data, he said. Labour MPs think that data "in a form capable of being processed" must include that stored in manual form, allowing them to have a full

**From Richard Bassett  
Vienna**

Police said seven avalanches within six hours near Les Diablerets in western Switzerland destroyed numerous chalets but no one was injured.

**From Keith Dalton, Manila**



**Priests' tri**  
Manila (AFP) - The Supreme

**Cardinal Sin: Pessimistic about reconciliation.**

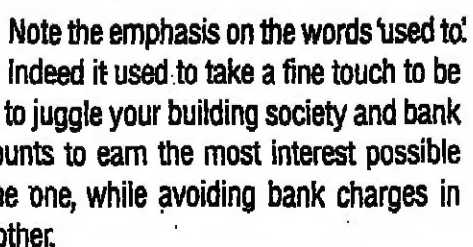
Cardinal Sin said the opposition, while willing to eliminate antagonisms, wanted to "liquidate the antagonist by forcing him to resign".

Manila (AFP) - The Supreme Court yesterday agreed to the transfer of a trial of three roman catholic priests and six church lay workers, accused of murdering a mayor, to another court.

The first hearing was adjourned on Tuesday because the 25-seat court room in the town hall of Kabankalan, in the

Acting on an urgent petition by the prosecution, defence and the judge, the Supreme Court said the trial should be moved to Bacolod City, the capital of Negros Occidental Province.

Father Brain Gore, an Australian, and Father Niall O'Brien, an Irishman, both of the Columban Order, Father Vicente Dangan, a Filipino, and six church lay workers are charged with the March, 1982, ambush and killing of Mr Pablo Sola, the mayor of Kabankalan, and four aides.



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## Anglo-Swapo response to ceasefire encourages Pretoria

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A *de facto* ceasefire is already operating in southern Angola and northern Namibia, and a "very promising climate" has been created, in which it might be possible to end hostilities permanently, Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, said.

Reporting to foreign journalists here on the response of Angola and the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) guerrillas to Pretoria's January 31 announcement that it was disengaging its forces in Angola, Mr Botha said that, from South Africa's point of view, it was encouraging and satisfactory.

If nothing happens to disturb this assessment, the next step is likely to be a meeting between Luanda and Pretoria to discuss a joint mechanism for monitoring a ceasefire and investigating alleged breaches of it.

"We have in practice at this moment a ceasefire... and steps are being taken, I believe, both by the South African Government and the Angolan Government, to put into effect a ceasefire for 30 days, to be extended beyond 30 days hopefully," Mr Botha said.

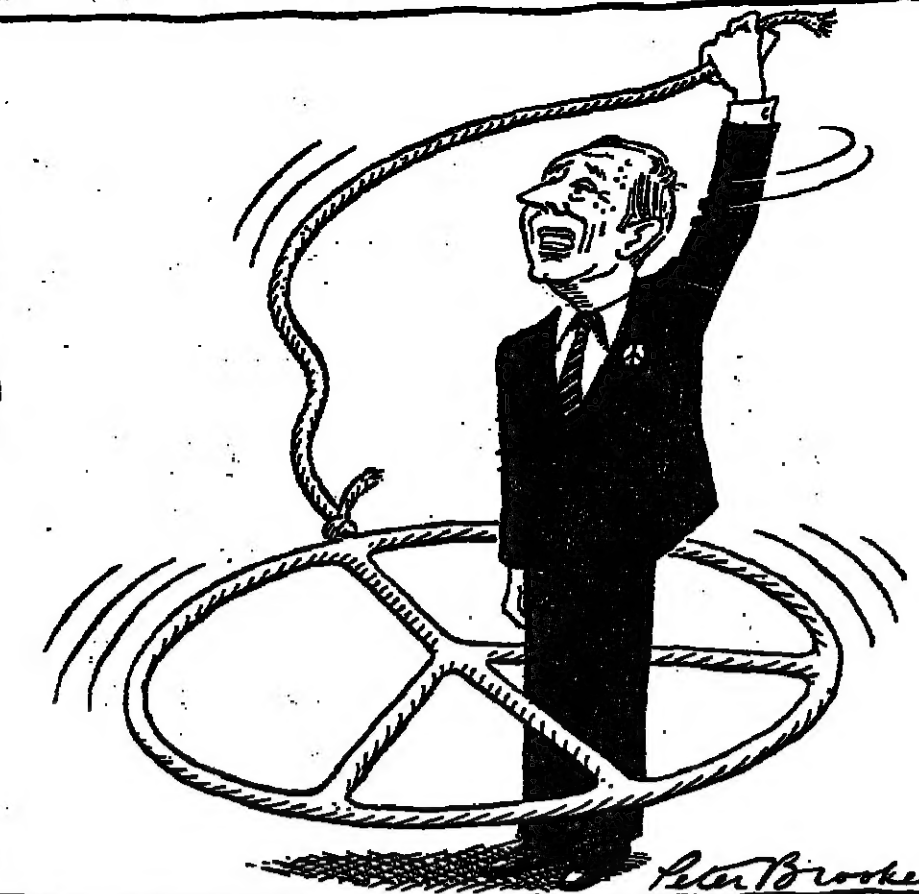
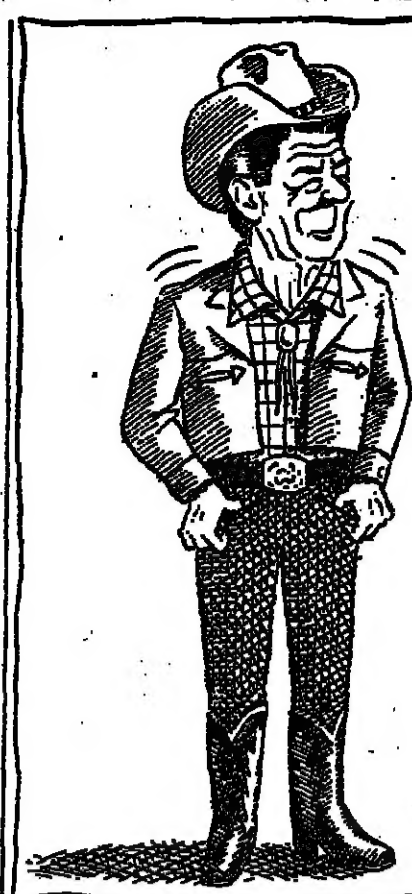
What is not clear is to what extent Angola will be able to negotiate and answer for Swapo, which has its bases in southern Angola. The guerrillas have been fighting for Namibia's independence for the last 17 years.

Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo leader, said on Wednesday during a visit to Rome that his guerrillas would observe "the so-called 30-day disengagement of forces provided that after 30 days there will be talks between Swapo and South Africa to sign a ceasefire".

Mr Botha, the Prime Minister, have said talks with Swapo are possible, but they would have to be conducted by the South African Administrator-General in Namibia, heading a delegation of political parties in the territory.

It seems doubtful that Swapo will be prepared to negotiate these terms. It has long regarded the "internal" political parties in Namibia as Pretoria's puppets and has refused to accept them as genuine representatives of Namibian opinion. Swapo claims to be the sole authentic representative of the people.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Botha, also told journalists that South Africa would continue to insist on the removal of Cuban troops from Angola before the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.



'It just ain't gonna work, Mr Kinnock'

## Koreas to meet face to face on border

Seoul - South Korea offered yesterday to meet North Korean representatives for the first time in four years and give them Seoul's response to a northern offer of peace talks.

The Government said two officials would travel to the border village of Panmunjom today to deliver a message from South Korean Prime Minister, Mr Chun Doo-hwan, to his newly appointed northern counterpart, Mr Kang Sang San.

North Korea proposed last month that tripartite peace talks be held between the United States and the two Koreas.

## Bangladesh told to show officer

Dhaka (Reuters) - The Bangladesh High Court has ordered the Government to produce a leader of a bloody coup in 1975 who disappeared last month after returning from abroad.

Retired Colonel Faruk Rahman, a former tank brigade officer, was a leader of the military coup in which former President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and several members of his family were killed.

## Lisbon protest

Lisbon (Reuters) - Riot police dispersed 4,000 angry shipyard workers who blocked Lisbon's Tagus bridge for nearly an hour, demanding the payment of back wages.

Eight people were reported to have been injured when the demonstration was broken up.

## Appeals fail

Rangoon (Reuters) - The Burmese Supreme Court rejected an appeal against death sentences imposed on two North Korean officers for the Rangoon bomb blasts which killed 21 people last October.

## Boy tortured

Moscow (Reuters) - Four men were sentenced to death for torturing and killing a 15-year-old boy while on a drunken spree in Khabarovsk.

## Hawke's tip

Peking (Reuters) - Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, is confident that there will be a satisfactory outcome to the Sino-British talks on the future of Hong Kong, according to the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, who met Mr Zhao.

## Lucknow deaths

Delhi (Reuters) - About 40 people were believed to have drowned when a river boat capsized on the Gomati River near Lucknow.

## Porn penalty

Nairobi (AFP) - Two women were jailed for six months each at Kakamega, Kenya, for having copies of a pornographic magazine and a 1979 Playboy calendar. The sentence follows President Moi's demand this week for strict enforcement of laws against pornography.

## Changing race

Cape Town (AP) - South Africa changed the races of 690 people last year, according to official statistics. Two-thirds had been coloureds (mixed race) who became white. Seventy-one blacks became Coloureds and 11 whites were classified to other race groups.

## Sultan of Johore elected King

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) - The Sultan of Johore, a convicted killer and head of Malaysia's only private army, was elected the country's new King yesterday.

An official announcement said that Malaysia's nine hereditary rulers chose Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, aged 51, who has a penchant for wearing military uniforms and weapons, to succeed King Ahmad Shah, whose term in office expires in April.

The sultans, who elect a King from their ranks every five years, had been expected to choose Sultan Idris Shah of Perak, but his death last week threw open the succession question. Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, the ruler of Malaysia's

southernmost state, emerged as the most eligible candidate on seniority, and was selected in a secret ballot after a three-day meeting.

He is described by political analysts as independent and strong-willed. He was convicted of culpable homicide after a shooting incident in 1977, but was later pardoned by his father.

The man who will take the title of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong as monarch of Malaysia's 13.5 million people was removed from the Johore line of succession in 1961 for his erratic behaviour. He was reinstated as Crown Prince shortly before his father died in 1981.

The new Sultan of Perak, Raja Azlan Shah, who suc-

ceeded his late cousin, was elected Deputy King.

The election issue has dominated Malaysian politics since last August, when the Government of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, introduced legislation to curb the powers of the King and the sultans.

The rulers opposed the changes, setting off a bitter constitutional crisis which divided the traditional royalist Malays. The deadlock was broken in December with a compromise which left the sultan's powers intact but prevented the King from delaying legislation passed by Parliament.

The Sultan of Johore maintains a private army.

## Kinnock in talks with US leaders

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The crisis in Lebanon dominated the first day of talks which Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, held in Washington yesterday with representatives of both political parties at the start of his six-day visit to the United States.

What should have been a five-minute courtesy call on Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, the House Speaker, turned into a half-hour discussion in which both men agreed on the need for swift implementation of President Reagan's decision to remove the Marines.

## Kohl attacked from all sides

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Union did not defend Herr Kohl during the parliamentary debate on the affair, and the *Bayernkurier*, the CSU organ, said Herr Kohl bore sole responsibility for what was decided.

Comparison is pointedly being made with Herr Georg Leber, a former Social Democratic Defence Minister, who was forced to resign after a scandal over illegal phone tapping by the military intelligence to make a scapegoat out of Herr Joachim Hieble, the State Secretary responsible for military intelligence, who will not be returning to his job after he recovers from his present illness.

Herr Kohl faced further criticism in Parliament yesterday during a debate on his recent visit to Israel. The opposition asked awkward questions about the presence in his party of a journalist who had worked on a Nazi newspaper and written an article attacking the attempt on Hitler's life. The Social Democrats accused Herr Kohl of ruining attempts to repair German relations with Jews.

The Chancellor spiritedly defended his determination to establish a balanced relationship with all parties in the Middle East, and said none of the weapons systems that might be delivered to Saudi Arabia threatened Israel's security.

Leading article, page 15

## Illness delays installation of woman Governor

From John Best Ottawa

Illness has forced an indefinite postponement of the installation of Mrs Jeanne Sauve as Canada's next Governor-General.

Mrs Sauve, aged 61, has been in Ottawa General Hospital for several weeks, suffering from a respiratory ailment, complicated by an allergy to drugs.

Details of her case have been kept secret, although this week she was described as having improved after being in a serious condition.

The former Speaker of the House of Commons was to have taken over as the Queen's representative in Canada on March 5, but will not be able to.

The present Governor-General, Mr Edward Schreyer, will remain in the post until Mrs Sauve is able to take it on, postponing his departure for Australia, where he is to be the new Canadian High Commissioner.



Mrs Sauve. Details of case kept secret

## Meeting of peace groups breaks up in disarray

From Mario Modiano, Athens

An international conference for the denuclearization of Europe which brought together for the first time 67 peace movements from 29 countries of East and Western Europe and North America, ended here yesterday in complete disarray.

A draft communique calling for an immediate nuclear freeze, as well as a "no-first-strike" pledge by all nuclear powers, started such a storm of protests

that it was not even put up for adoption.

The four-day conference underlined the profound divisions between Western peace movements and the officially-sponsored peace committees in East Europe both on the causes of the nuclear deadlock and the repression of the independent peace movements in communist countries.

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## South Africa

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# Washington anger over Reagan's role in Beirut pull-out decision

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Two aspects of President Reagan's decision to pull the American Marines out of Beirut have provoked angry criticism and shock, even among hard-bitten political observers in Washington.

First, there was the revelation by Administration officials that the President made a tentative decision to withdraw the Marines over two weeks ago. Yet he continued to maintain in public that his role remained unchanged and denounced critics of his Lebanon policy as advocating "surrender".

Then there was his decision to go ahead with his planned holiday in California while his senior aides, led by Vice-President Bush, were left to preside over the biggest foreign policy setback of the Reagan Administration.

As is to be expected, the Administration is trying hard to present the events of the past few days in the best possible light. Officials maintain there has not been a significant change in US policy towards Lebanon.

The decision to withdraw the Marines and to resort to naval

shelling of hostile gun batteries was, in the words of the State Department spokesman, "only a change in the pattern of redeployment and our estimate of what is the most effective way to use our forces".

According to Administration officials, President Reagan first set the withdrawal plan in motion on January 21 after hearing a report on the situation in Lebanon from Mr Donald Rumsfeld, his special envoy.

At that meeting a "package deal" was proposed involving increased military assistance for the beleaguered Government of President Amin Gemayel accompanied by a phased removal of American troops.

The package was intended more as a compromise between Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary (who wanted the troops out), and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State (who wanted them to stay), than as a means of shoring up President Gemayel's tottering administration.

A withdrawal plan was presented to the President on January 26 and was approved in principle by the President on

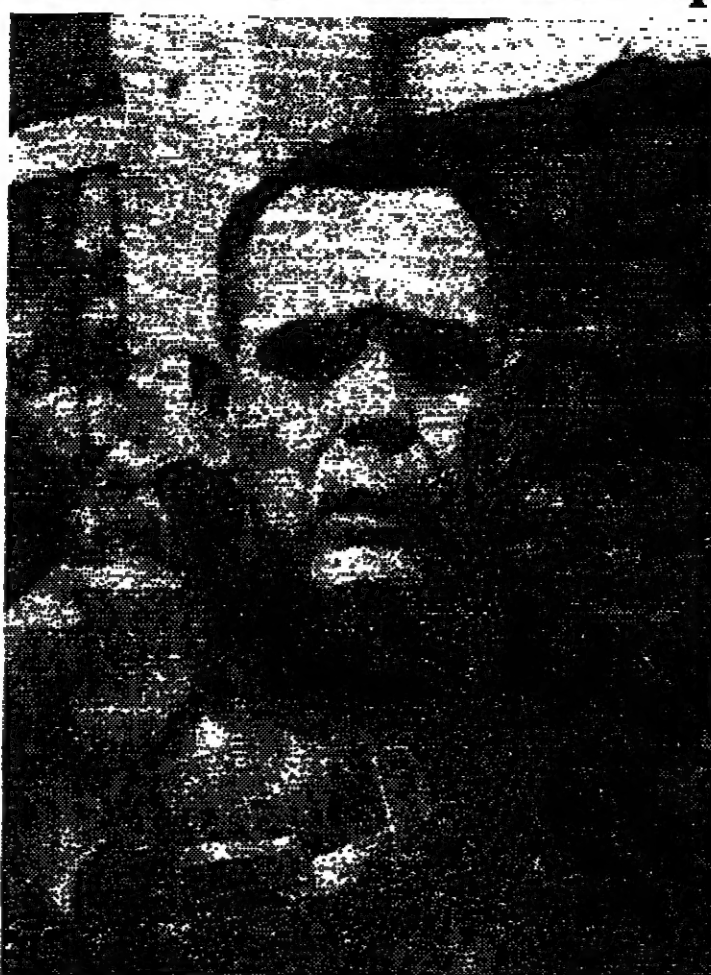
February 1. This was the day on which Mr Reagan attacked Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker and outspoken critic of the Administration policy in Lebanon, in an interview in the *Wall Street Journal*.

"He (O'Neill) may be ready to surrender, but I'm not," Mr Reagan remarked. "If we get out, that's the end of Lebanon."

The decision to implement the withdrawal plan was taken on Sunday after the collapse of the Lebanese Government. President Gemayel was informed on Monday.

A formal announcement of the withdrawal plan was not due to be made until Wednesday but was brought forward to Tuesday evening after word had started to leak out in Washington and from European capitals.

Significantly, the announcement was not made by the President but was merely contained in a White House press release handed to journalists late on Tuesday. This, together with the continuation of his holiday plans, is part of a deliberate attempt by White House aides to keep the President as distant from the withdrawal decision as possible.



Faces of war: General James Joy, commander of the US Marines in Beirut, and Muslim fighters outside St Michael's

## UN search for new peace force formula

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

At the behest of France, the United Nations Security Council met for private consultations last night in search of a formula that would allow UN peacekeepers to replace the multinational peace forces in Beirut.

France's decision to term the consultations "exploratory" illuminated the overwhelming degree of difficulty that the initiative was expected to encounter. Practically every party which is either directly involved or an active observer in the Lebanese conflict has placed its own conditions and obstacles to an UN presence in Beirut.

Given the consensus principle among the five permanent members of the Security Council, any pursuit in the face of Soviet objections would prove academic.

Diplomats believe that Moscow will continue to block moves to bring the UN to Beirut until the United States acknowledges a Soviet role and brings it into the Middle East dialogue. With the political mood in Washington marked by enmity and diplomatic competitiveness with Moscow, such a move seems unlikely.

The Soviet Union is perfectly happy to watch from the sidelines as the West struggles in the Lebanese quagmire. At the same time, it is in a position to act as Syria's broker in the Council and invoke Syrian objections to a UN force based on the premise that the strife in Lebanon is an internal matter outside the realm of the Council's responsibilities.

If the United States persuades Syria to accept UN troops as part of a package deal, at least one of the hurdles will be crossed. But some diplomats here feel that the US may not be too enthusiastic about the French initiative.

It is felt that if the American decision to remove the Marines from Beirut presages complete disengagement in the area then a UN presence would be desirable. But if a continuing military effort is envisaged then UN peacekeeping forces could have the effect of restricting American movement in the area and make it diplomatically difficult for the Marines to return to Beirut if deemed necessary.

Suggestions that the multinational peacekeeping troops, including the withdrawn British contingent, could return to Beirut wearing the blue berets of UN peacekeepers is unlikely to gain the approval of either the Soviet Union, should it give the green light to a force at all, or the Muslim militias. The latter found the multinational force tainted by American and French actions aimed at protecting the Government of President Amin Gemayel.

UN troops in Beirut would fall under a unified command answerable to the Secretary-General who, in turn, must report to the Security Council. Any UN peacekeeping force could then become hostage to the political intricacies of the Council.

Senor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, has set further prerequisites, including reconciliation and agreement among all the warring Lebanese factions. He has also stated that a request for a UN force in Beirut must come from the Lebanese Government.

## Druze chief warns US on shelling

Damascus (NYT) - The Lebanese Druze leader said here that his forces would retaliate against American diplomats and civilians in Lebanon if US warships continued their indiscriminate shelling of Druze villages.

"We will not allow our people to be killed without taking revenge," Mr Walid Jumblatt said in an interview on Wednesday. "If they want us to be terrorists, we are ready to be terrorists; if they want us to be extremists, we are ready to be extremists."

He spoke a few hours after the battleship New Jersey had fired 200 shells from its 16-inch guns towards targets in the mountains overlooking Beirut.

The Druze leader said he had telephoned the US Ambassador to urge that the shelling of Druze villages be stopped.

## Syria urges Britain to take diplomatic lead

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Syria is calling on Britain and other European countries to take a diplomatic lead in the Middle East, independently of the United States, according to sources in London.

The point has been made in three or four letters from Damascus to the Foreign Office and was underlined by President Assad when he saw Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in Damascus last month.

The EEC's 1980 Venice declaration (that the Palestine Liberation Organization be associated with peace talks) would be a good starting point for negotiations, the sources said. Although a succession of American envoys had been calling in Damascus once or twice a week, they had not succeeded in coming up with any new ideas.

"Europe understands the Middle East better than the

United States does. The European view may not correspond with ours, but it is more negotiable."

The sources said acceptance of a UN force in Lebanon would be a matter for any Beirut government of national unity, which Syria would like to see established, or for a national reconciliation conference. Syria would accept such a decision.

Equally, Syria would accept Mr Yasser Arafat as leader of the PLO if he were chosen by the Palestine National Council.

The sources said Syrian forces would remain in Lebanon until after Israeli troops had quit their positions in the south of the country. The May 17 withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon was now dead.

But there could be no lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs while the power gap between the two sides remained

## Thatcher defends evacuation decision

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister yesterday defended in the Commons the decision to withdraw British troops from Beirut before the evacuation of British subjects from Lebanon.

She told MPs that from their headquarters the British troops would have been unable to help British civilians in West Beirut. They were better able to help them from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant, to which they were moved.

Mrs Thatcher said it had been right to withdraw the British contingent rather than to leave them in a dangerous and exposed position. They were unable to carry out the task which had been allocated to them of safeguarding the bank where the ceasefire talks were taking place (there had been some since January 16) and patrolling in West Beirut, which had become impossible.

## Sharon hopes to lead Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A year after being condemned by the Kahan report on the Beirut massacres, Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's former Defence Minister, announced unexpectedly yesterday that he hopes to be the country's next Prime Minister, and to that end will submit himself for election as the next leader of the right wing Herut Party.

Herut, which is at present led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, is the dominant grouping within the ruling right-wing Likud coalition. If Mr Sharon were to succeed in topping Mr Shamir when the next vote is taken (no date is fixed or expected for such a contest), he would automatically become Likud candidate for Prime Minister.

Mr Sharon, who is 55, made his announcement while speaking to students in Tel Aviv. It was seen as a defiant gesture at a time when he is under intense political attack after allegations

in two books by Israeli journalists that he seriously misled the Cabinet and Knesset during the Lebanon war, of which he was the chief architect.

So far, Mr Sharon, Israel's most controversial politician, has repeatedly failed in his attempts to make a political comeback. Last month, he suffered a humiliating defeat when he stood for the elected post as head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department.

On the recommendation of the Kahan commission, Mr Sharon was dismissed from his post as Defence Minister 12 months ago and demoted to Minister without Portfolio. The fact he was kept on in the Government was criticized by many opposition politicians who claimed it contravened the spirit of the report's recommendations.

Since then, Mr Sharon has frequently complained loudly about being under-employed in

the Government, and has become increasingly divorced from his colleagues, even some of those on the extreme right wing of Israeli politics.

His political behaviour has been described as increasingly erratic, but his loyal aides remain convinced that he still has an important role to play.

Although the former general enjoys considerable grass roots support in the extreme right wing Herut movement, political observers said last night that it was extremely unlikely that he could win any leadership contest. But his candidature could badly divide the party and even further disunite the Likud.

When Mr Shamir was elected last year to succeed Mr Menachem Begin, Mr Sharon advised his supporters to back him against the other candidate, Mr David Levy, and has since been resentful of receiving no political award for his gesture.

## Likud embarrassed as rockets hit Galilee

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

For only the second time since the invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982, Soviet-built Katyusha rockets were fired yesterday from Lebanon into northern Galilee, forcing Jewish residents of the border town of Metula to flee to their shelters.

Although there were no casualties, the attack was an embarrassing setback for the Likud Government, which has often boasted that the main achievement of the controversial Lebanon war was to make northern Israel free from cross-border terrorism.

Last night, the military command confirmed that two craters had been found in the Metula region, and a third across the border in Lebanon.

A big army search, including helicopters, was launched to find the source of the attack which was initially thought to have originated from territory under Israeli control. The rockets have a range of about five miles.

● LONDON: Israeli military intelligence has found evidence of mobile missiles, manned by Soviet troops in the Bekaa Valley in northern Lebanon (Henry Stanhope writes).

The missiles are understood to be the SS21s, ground-launched replacements for the elderly Frog missiles, which have been in Russian service for many years.

According to sources here, the Russians have been training the SS21s, which have a range of 75 miles, across the Syrian border. Their presence is considered to be an "escalating step" by the Israelis.

Russia has about 7,000 "advisers" in Syria, according to Jerusalem estimates. The number went up from 5,000 when the Sam 5s were deployed in 1982.

The SS21s are among the latest generation of Soviet missiles which have been introduced in Eastern Europe as well as the Middle East.

## Rabat to renew Cairo ties

Rabat (AP) - King Hassan of Morocco and President Mubarak of Egypt have agreed to resume diplomatic relations, broken since Egypt's 1978 Camp David agreements with Israel, sources said yesterday.

No date was fixed for the resumption of ties nor was it certain that the agreement would be mentioned in today's joint communique at the end of President Mubarak's four-day official visit, the sources said.

All Arab states, with the exception of Oman, Sudan and Somalia, broke relations with Egypt after Camp David under a joint decision of the Arab League.

Officials said the two leaders discussed the possible re-admission of Egypt to the Arab League, but no action would be taken before the next summit. President Mubarak is due to meet President Mitterrand in Paris later today.

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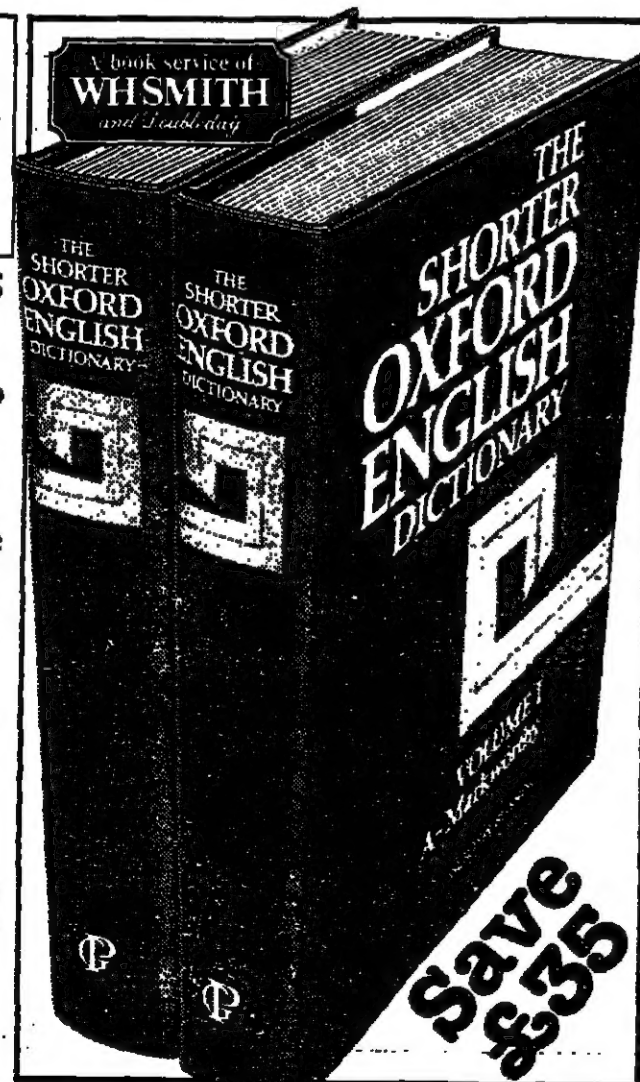
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## Salvadorean rebels offer peace plan

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

The Salvadorean guerrillas yesterday presented a plan for peace negotiations "without preconditions" with representatives of the Salvadorean Government, the Army and the United States.

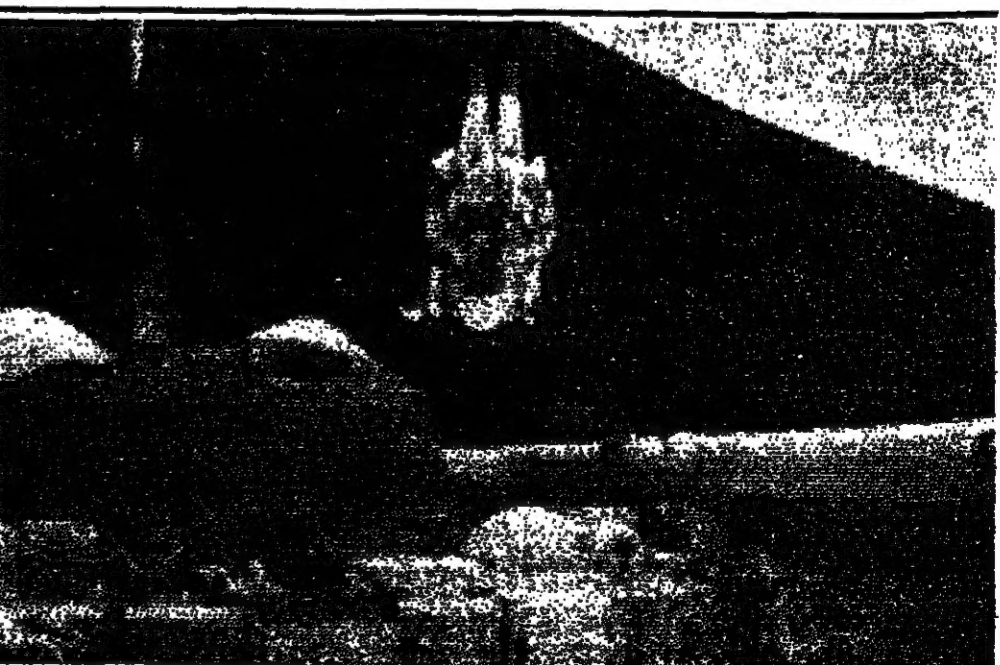
A spokesman in Costa Rica for the FMLN-FDR front called the plan "a political bombshell", arguing that its "highly conciliatory" nature should make it acceptable to both the United States and the Salvadorean right.

The plan, made public at a press conference in Mexico City, proposes negotiations aimed at forming a broad-based provisional government in El Salvador composed of representatives of the guerrillas, political parties, the Army, the business sector, workers, farmers and students. Among its tasks would be to draw up a provisional constitution and organize democratic elections.

The proposed negotiations would also lead to the withdrawal of US military advisers, a ceasefire and the unification of the Salvadorean and guerrilla armies.

The United States argues that it is not a party to the conflict, and should act as a mediator in any talks between the Salvadorean Government and the guerrillas, but the FMLN-FDR official said that, under the rebel plan, impartial mediators "acceptable to all parties" would be selected to participate in negotiations.

The proposal comes at a time when the guerrillas have been making spectacular military gains.



Flying free: Captain Bruce McCandless appears upside down alongside Challenger's tailplane during exercises yesterday. The Earth is in the background

## Fourth shuttle setback as robot arm fails

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The space shuttle Challenger suffered its fourth setback yesterday when a "free-fly" by two astronauts was abandoned because of a fault in the craft's robot arm.

Captain Bruce McCandless and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stewart, the first men to fly in space without being tethered to a spacecraft, were to have practised chasing a spinning satellite. But the Challenger's remote-control arm developed a fault in one of the joints.

The arm was to have lifted a pallet above the Challenger and spin it slowly while the astronauts flew to it and tried to attach a docking device. The exercise was intended as prac-

tice for retrieving satellites, which normally spin slowly for stability.

Although the manoeuvre was abandoned, the astronauts rehearsed docking with the pallet while it remained in Challenger's hold. They were the backpicks that earlier this week allowed them to manoeuvre freely in space.

Captain McCandless was the first to fly around the hold yesterday. He did several docking exercises with the pallet.

The high spot of the mission, the tenth by the shuttle, was the flight using the backpicks for the first time, but almost every other exercise has gone wrong.

## General leaves the Greens

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

General Gert Bastian, a leading member of the Greens party, told his parliamentary colleagues yesterday he was leaving the party, as he threatened to do last month, because of profound disagreements over its development and policies.

He said in a letter to the parliamentary faction that this "difficult step" did not mean his rejection of the Green movement, which he still considered necessary, but because the party had not been able to improve its structural organisation.



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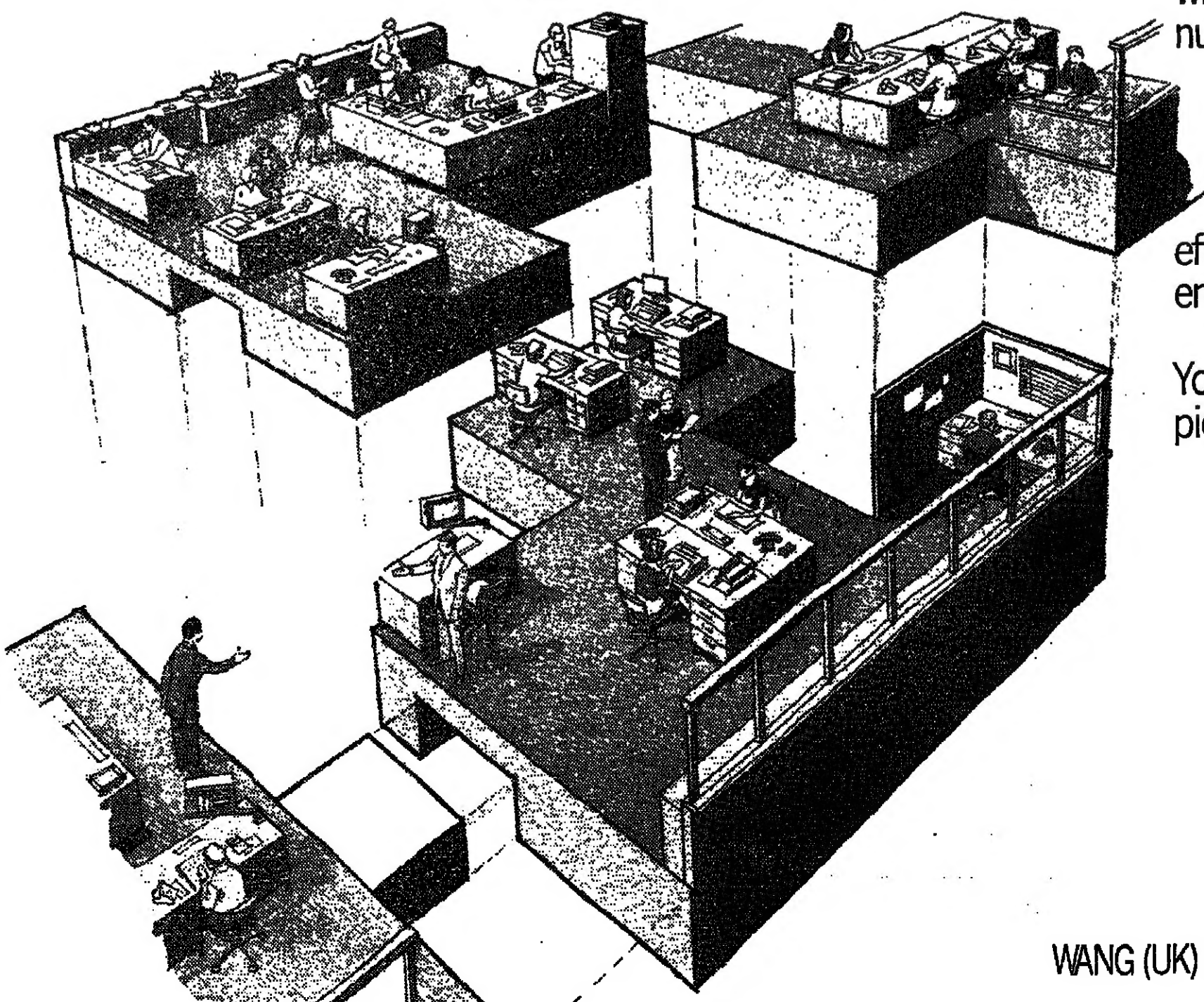
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## Alfonsín sets watchdog to investigate corruption charges against military

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The Government of President Raúl Alfonsín has launched an investigation into economic crimes and corruption which occurred under the same military regime it is prosecuting for large-scale human rights violations.

The Government has asked a state agency to investigate "economic crimes and irregularities to the detriment of the national interest which may have been committed by officials of the (military) Government" which ruled from 1976 until December 10 last year.

Justifying the measure, President Alfonsín said in a decree issued on Wednesday night that "many officials of the *de facto* regime have been accused of multiple and extremely serious irregularities and crimes which affect the national patrimony".

A number of former officials have already been charged with economic corruption in cases now being tried by both military and civilian courts, but the new

decree would centralize all evidence of corruption in the office of the National Prosecutor for Administrative Investigations, the Government's watchdog agency.

The investigation is to include civilian functionaries of the military regime. The Presidential decree states that punishment for possible crimes "is a fundamental measure to deter future criminal conduct, thereby moralizing public administration".

The decree hints that the investigation may focus on possible corruption connected with the country's \$43.7 billion (£31 billion) foreign debt, which grew disproportionately under the military, and on the payment of illegal commissions on public works projects regarded as "superfluous and tremendously costly".

● **Falklands impasse:** Señor Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, has again stated Argentina's unwillingness to begin discussions on the Falk-

lands dispute with Britain that might imply an acceptance of British sovereignty.

"We cannot accept that the beginning of conversations with Great Britain should be tacit admission of British sovereignty", Señor Caputo said.

He added that his Government was preparing an official response to the "specific ideas" proposed by Britain to normalize relations, which he said include reestablishing commercial relations in exchange for the return of the bodies of Argentine soldiers killed on the Falklands.

Señor Caputo said that any plan to reinstate British-Argentine negotiations "must take into account the deformation of the Malvinas and the consideration of the rights of the Argentines on the islands".

He also promised that Argentina "will continue to exert its imagination and goodwill" to find a way of reestablishing the situation which existed before the 1982 war.



Victory salute: Masked Turkish political refugees give themselves up after occupying the Turkish National Airlines office in central Athens for two hours yesterday in protest against the military authorities in Ankara.

## 'Dirty war' claims more lives

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The mysterious "Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups" (GAL) yesterday claimed responsibility for Wednesday night's murder of two suspected Basque terrorists living in south-west France.

An anonymous telephone caller spoke in Spanish and French. The killings, which occurred just across the frontier in Hendaye, were, the caller indicated, in revenge for the recent killings by ETA's military wing Army general in Madrid. GAL had previously threatened to take two lives for every person killed by ETA.

Street demonstrations and factory strikes to protest against the killings were held yesterday in many Basque towns.

This latest eruption of the so-called "dirty war" comes before the start today of the general election campaign in the Basque country and the meeting between Spanish and French ministers, this weekend, thus forcing to the fore the issue of terrorism.

GAL has assassinated four important figures in ETA in the past two months. The man killed on Wednesday is understood to be the head of the squads which arrange for ETA

activists on terrorist missions to pass across the frontier undetected by the police.

Questioned in Parliament last week Señor José Barriouvieuo, the Interior Minister, could not identify the men behind GAL, but all the killings show the group has access to excellent information about ETA.

Ministry sources have denied any police involvement. This leaves as the principal suspect Basque industrialists, who have suffered from ETA's so-called "revolutionary tax" blackmail and may have hired professional killers in France.

## Senate and House elections

### Democrats aim to regain lost ground

Nicholas Ashford, concluding his two-part series from Washington, looks at the non-presidential prizes to be won in November.

Although the presidential election will inevitably attract most public attention in the US and overseas, important contests will also be taking place on November 6 to fill all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 33 Senate seats and 13 state governors' mansions.

"Control" will be the dominant theme in the congressional elections. For the Republican Party, the most important task will be to keep control of the Senate, which it unexpectedly captured in 1980. As President Reagan remarked recently: "Nothing matters more than keeping the Senate."

The Republicans will also seek to reduce the Democrats' sizable majority in the House, although they stand no chance of gaining a majority.

For the Democrats the Senate offers the most tempting target. Although Republicans hold a 55 to 45 advantage, Democrats appear confident they can gain the six seats needed to assure their control. Of the 33 Senate seats being contested (the winners will retain their seats for six years), 19 are held by Republicans, of which up to 10 could be in serious jeopardy.

By contrast, most of the 14 Democratic seats being contested are considered fairly safe. However, a combination of a reviving economy, a strong reelection campaign by President Reagan and plenty of Republican money could produce some surprise upsets.

In the House, the Democrats will strive to retain the comfortable majority they established in the 1982 mid-term election by winning 26 seats from the Republicans, giving them a lead of 268 to 167. (House seats are held for a two-year term). Although they had retained a majority after the 1980 elections, they temporarily lost working control of the House because of President Reagan's ability to persuade conservative Southern Democrats - known as "boll weevils" - to support his economic programme.

Of the 13 governors' seats up for election this year, seven are held by Republicans, almost half their national total of 15. The Republicans will be lucky to hold their own in the gubernatorial races.

In the Senate the most prominent target for the Democrats is Senator Jesse Helms, of North Carolina, a leading confidant of President Reagan, who is being strongly challenged by Governor James Hunt.

Other seats Democrats are confident of capturing are those being vacated by Senator Howard Baker (Tennessee), the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator John Tower (Texas), chairman of the armed services committee. Both states are traditionally Democratic.

Also high on the Democrats' list of targets are Senate seats for Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico and South Carolina.

Two Democratic senators will not be seeking reelection. They are Senator Jennings Randolph, of West Virginia, who is retiring, and Senator Paul Tsongas, of Massachusetts, who is quitting because of ill-health. Both seats appear securely Democratic, but the Republicans believe they have a chance of seizing Senate seats from the Democrats in Michigan, Montana and Virginia.

Neither party is forecasting big upsets in the House, and it is possible that as many as 400 of the 434 members (one seat is vacant) will be back when the ninety-ninth Congress convenes next January. "This election is going to be boring on the House side," Mr. Martin Franks, director of the Democrats' House campaign committee, said.

Both parties will be concentrating efforts on the freshmen (52 Democrats, 24 Republicans) elected in 1982. The Republicans are also planning a heavily-financed campaign to unseat Mr. James Jones (Oklahoma), chairman of the House budget committee, who believes they have a chance of ousting him.

Mr. Donald Albosta, who is heading the inquiry into the purloining of President Carter's 1980 debate papers, from his Michigan constituency.

The Democrats hope to oust Mr. Robert Michel, House Minority Leader, who narrowly survived a strong challenge in his Illinois district in 1982. Mr. Daniel Carne, also of Illinois, and Mr. George Hansen, of Idaho. They also believe increased black voter registration could tip the balance in their favour in several Southern states.

In the gubernatorial races, Republicans will face strong challenges in Missouri and Washington, while the Democrats could lose West Virginia, where Governor Jay Rockefeller is forbidden a third consecutive term.

Concluded



Republican Senators Howard Baker (left), who is retiring, and Jesse Helms, an important target for the Democrats.

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## SPECTRUM

## 4 rooms, 4 views

What is a room? Four artists were asked to design a room each and they came up with four wildly different ideas, from the chill of an operating theatre to a sculpture like a tree house. Today they go on public display.

BERYL DOWNING reports.

"Four Rooms" opens today at Liberty's in London. Michael Regan, exhibition organizer at the Arts Council, wanted to commission four rooms which were artistic statements but which also involved objects that could be made and sold. He wrote to a dozen stores, of which 11 either did not

reply or told him to come back in five years.

They had forgotten, perhaps, that artists could be designers. After all, before the Second World War, Graham Sutherland and Dufy designed textiles and Ben Nicholson designed ceramics. Liberty, though, have always worked with artist/designers and were happy to organize the selling and host the show.

"The brief was totally open", says Regan. "I gave the height and dimensions only and said go away and think about the function of a room."

"I wanted them to be art works so that the objects in them took a secondary role but contributed to the whole environment. I didn't say,

"Design furniture that could be manufactured". I said "Design objects for your own room and then we'll see whether any manufacturer is interested."

"Although some objects are for sale, I wanted the rooms to work as art, with a life of their own. I was worried they might produce terribly domestic interiors and I am pleased that the results are four startlingly different rooms. They are not rooms you could live in, but they make you think about how we decorate and how we occupy the space we live in." There is, of course, something unusual about an Arts Council exhibition appearing in a commercial department store, but this has not affected the art one bit.

## HOWARD HODGKIN

Howard Hodgkin, painter and print-maker, has been chosen to represent Britain at next year's Venice Biennale. He uses thick blocks of colour almost like building bricks and his favourite motif is represented in his crowded, tented room by paw marks and leopard prints. The whole room is like an over-stuffed sofa and is crammed with furniture all round the walls - squishy chairs and sofas in blue glazed chairs interspersed with low plywood tables painted with paw marks. These look spontaneous, but were carefully applied under Hodgkin's instruction by Nicholas Gammon, building up layers of diluted acrylic paint, painted wet on wet to achieve the depth of finish. The lamps are in painted bronze and the contrast of the unglazed white vinyl floor emphasizes the luxurious effect of the other materials used. The deep blue of the walls continues over the ceiling giving the impression of a cocoon and two doors allow viewers to walk straight through.

I wanted to make a room which was sufficiently fantastic and sufficiently non-specific to enable visitors to make what they wanted of it. I wanted it to be surreal and claustrophobic, with lots of chairs so that people could sit down anywhere and relax. I chose blue because it is a very romantic colour and

flattering to human flesh - it is also quite exotic and was used a lot in classical interiors.

I thought it would be fun to design for production but it wasn't. I wanted to design simple products - to find lights that look like lights is impossible - but having designed them, the price put on them by the manufacturers seems exorbitant. It seemed very strange that one was expected to produce designs without any reference to the price they would sell at. If one had been a trained designer for industry surely one wouldn't have been kept in the dark. Why the white floor? Ah, that's to give the same away. It would have looked too much like a real room otherwise.

This room is cunningly placed between the unreal world of the artist's imagination and the comforting familiarity of Liberty's furniture department. The lavish use of fabric gives an opulence which has a physical effect - I saw the room first in an unheated warehouse. I returned, frozen, to this tent to get warm - a total illusion. The most domestic of the interiors, it emphasizes the particularly sad point that British manufacturers consider artists as incidental intellectuals rather than as commercial contributors, even when they are designing goods for batch production.

## MARC CHAIMOWICZ

Marc Chaimowicz has produced the most paradoxical interior. Each component is functional, yet the whole is an intellectual exercise, a room to be contemplated rather than felt. The visitor observes from a corridor and looks into a cool, grey space bisected by a screen, with a desk which pivots into place for use and can be up-ended to become a sculpture. Behind it is a corner sideboard slightly derivative of the 1930s. In another corner a sloping chest with alternating inset and projecting drawers, and sofa bed with a sweeping overhead arm echoing the lines of the desk. A narrow panel of stained glass and back-lit pierced cross in one wall give a feeling of ecclesiastical calm, sharply contrasted with a giant screen showing slides of the people who might occupy such a room. It is presented like a museum room, to be considered, not enjoyed, with observers deliberately excluded from the room space. The lighting is cold and uninviting, further adding to the room's forbidding atmosphere.

I have a great regard for the architectural profession at its best. Architects deal with reality in a way that artists don't - it's a question of function rather than symbols and metaphor. I have also been attracted more and more by the lost tradition of artists working

commercially with manufacturers. There is something intriguing about the anonymity of presenting drawings to a textile manufacturer and then being surprised later to see them in 10 different colours. There are tangible benefits in the cooperation between artist and commerce. I don't have any pretensions about changing the world. I am just fascinated by the issues of who one works for, who is one's public and how does one price one's work. It's a sort of town and gown relationship.

Of all the rooms this was the one that felt most like a painting. The fact that it was three dimensional was irrelevant. It would have given the same impression of cool solitude had it been presented in tempera, so it certainly worked as art. But it was also a brilliantly innovative piece of design. The desk in its tilted form has a false perspective so that you can look at it for a considerable time without being able to work out how it assumes a conventional posture. The most functional piece is the sloping chest of drawers which could fit any modern interior and to accommodate the other pieces you would need a mini Musée des Arts Modernes, but if you have one, the pieces are all beautifully made to order by Pearl Dot.

Photographs by Philip Savage

## ANTHONY CARO

Anthony Caro is the only sculptor of the group, and he has an international reputation for huge abstract work involving steel girders and giant metal discs. His tower room in Japanese oak is based on one of his original bronzes. The angled turret is poised on a column reached by a twisting staircase built above an intricate network of supports. There is not a single plane that corresponds to the next - everything is a visual and physical surprise that invites further exploration. The cylindrical space which the sculpture encloses is as big enough for a child - barely for an adult. Cones like telescopes emerge from the space like a ship's crow's nest.

I was interested in the sculptural problems of what it is like to inhabit a space. What it feels like to sit down, stand, climb, walk. Children have a consciousness of the volume they are inhabiting and we lose it as we get older. So I tried to create all sorts of interesting spaces to go through, holes to look through, and I wanted it to be for adults. I wanted people to be able to sit there in the barrel and look through the tubes, and I wanted the floor to slope and be hairy. I didn't want it to be comfortable. Sculpture is my language, but in order to make a sculpture about feeling I have to use space and material and form. If we became more aware of space we would get more enjoyment from buildings and from sculptures. With sculpture your eyes do the walking. Here: your body does the feeling.

Caro's tower is, literally, the most sensational of the four inventions. The feel of the structure is quite different from its appearance. He was limited by the height restriction, but it works for small adults as well as for children. As you climb into it the scale changes and you have to turn and twist, duck under arches, shrink through too-narrow spaces, stand safely on a platform one minute and suddenly feel unsafe when you step on to the unexpectedly sloping floor. If you accept the view put by Richard Hamilton that "the creation of a room of one's own is among the most revealing things we do", this experience of self-discovery is enough justification for the whole exhibition.

## RICHARD HAMILTON

Richard Hamilton, one of the founders of pop art, has been involved in the interpretation of interiors since the 1950s. Tomorrow exhibition of 1956. "But what he describes as 'the brash expectation of the fifties' has developed into a bleak view of today's negative society. His room is not domestic. It is an operating theatre with a stainless steel sink for the surgeon to wash his hands of us, and with the all-seeing, unseeing eye of Mrs Thatcher on the menacing close circuit screen surveying the bed. As you pass beyond the X-ray screen you are meant to sense the protected power of the operator separate and uninvolved."

At first I thought of the project as a statement of non-style, rather than as a political statement. I have spent a lot of my time being involved with highly styled interiors and stylishly presented exhibitions which have been works of abstract art in themselves, so this time I wanted to make a room which had no decorative or aesthetic content. I actually expected it to be a little more out-putting than it has turned out. It has an impersonal quality but I actually like the look of it. I now find it rather beautiful. Having made a design to produce an ugly space it withered in trying to carry it through. But people who see the

room would immediately identify it as mine so it must have style after all.

I doubt whether many Liberty disciples will know what to make of this one. It is an interior but it is not design, unless you consider all politics to be by design. It is certainly not commercial or reproducible or desirable. It is threatening and stark and unsympathetic and so is as valid a comment on a section of 1984 society as Orwell's prophecy was. If it makes visitors feel uncomfortable, it will have achieved its aim and so justified its inclusion, if only as a contrast to the decorative interpretations. But for me the aftertaste is inappropriate - as if your son's best man were not only making embarrassing jokes but canvassing votes.

Four Rooms is at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 until March 10 and then at the following art galleries: Wolverhampton, April 7 - May 13; Southampton, May 26 - July 8; Newport, July 21 - August 26; Aberdeen, September 8 - October 7; Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, October 20 - November 18. The fabrics are in production by Warners, wallpapers by Coles, Marc Chaimowicz's furniture by Pearl Dot to order, and Howard Hodgkin's furniture and lamps by Aram.

## The wrong climate for dates

however... Russell Davies

It has been apparent for some time, except to meteorologists, that the prevailing climatic conditions no longer match the calendar. In fact the whole system has slipped out of whack by a month. What we historically recognize to be December's weather arrives in January, January's in February and so on round the year.

Already the opening matches of recent cricket seasons, in late April, have succumbed to the new ruling. "Cold stopped play". The season for football, our "winter game", starts in what is effectively July. It could get worse. One need only think back as far as January 25, when by rights the entire country should have been enjoying a white Christmas. (December 25, you will recall, was recognized as the season of mist and suchlike, with leaves still falling off the trees and carol singers vainly pretending to shiver on your doorstep.) Something has to be done. As far as I can see, only two possibilities exist. One is that by public statute, a suitable month - August, for argument's sake - should be doubled in length, giving us all four weeks' extra holiday, a bonus Premium Bond draw, and a month's free subscription

to *The Times*. By the end of August, as it would be known for convenience, the seasonal slippage would have been corrected and September's conditions restored to their rightful place in our expectations.

However, serious difficulties attach themselves to this attractive plan. Chief among them is the problem of squaring the change with the EEC. Though it is highly likely that our Continental neighbours are experiencing the same wonky unseasonability as we are (witness the number of ski races these days that have to be held on artificial Soapstone surfaces), it is overwhelmingly improbable that the French, for one, would admit it: they like to appear to be in control of such things. Besides, while it is true that individuals and their families would enjoy August just as much as the English, the French government would surely not be happy at the prospect of leaving Paris deserted for more than 60 days.

Britain could, of course, go it alone and declare unilateral

Augmentagust, but the response from the French in such a case could be expected to be yet more obstructive, especially on the agricultural front. Faced with the fact that at any given moment it would be, say, September in England and October on the Continent, the French government could be relied upon to ban consignments of British lamb on the grounds that they had taken a month to get from Dover to Calais, and must therefore be unpalatable. While this objection would be easy to set aside (by pickling the offending imports in mint sauce), others of a similar kind would follow, as sure as eggs are (pending Euro-council ratification) *ocufs*.

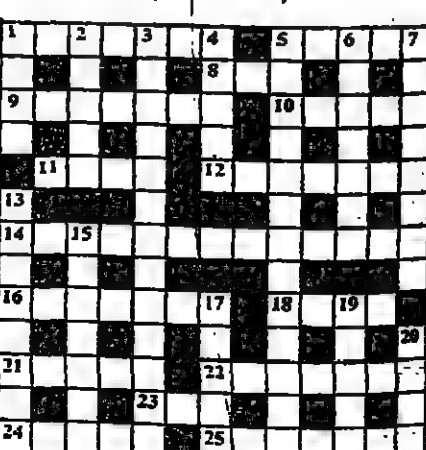
All in all, the other solution might be less trouble in the long run - namely a frank admission by church, state, press and populace that Things Have Changed, and that our cherished festivals must simply be shifted by one month to new and more appropriate times. Is a Christmas on January 25 too awful to contemplate? Is there something inherently uninviting about phrases like "the

February sales" or "the Ides of April"? I think not.

Sundry benefits, indeed, could accrue from this simple displacement of dates. Kurt Weill's "October Song" might find a whole new army of fans (if that is the expression) beyond the Iron Curtain. Devotees of the long-running musical *The Fantasticks* might not be so enthusiastic over the loss of "Try to remember the kind of September..." but I feel sure they would derive an even deeper satisfaction from "Try to get sober at least till October..." once they had got, or gotten, used to it.

But there is no need to take things too far. Nobody in our lifetime is likely to be heard crooning "I'm as corny as Kansas in September, high as the flag on the Fourth of August". We in England just want to, as they say, regularize our own position. We can start by enlisting the support of television personalities like the lovely *Feb Leeming*. I think we can count on the backing of Conservative pressure groups like the Tuesday Club and the 1923 Committee. And with the support of *The Times* and its september readership, we will april forward to face the future, come what June.

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  - Gossip purveyor (7, 6)
  - Obliterates (7)
  - Broad belt (4)
  - Prohibited (5)
  - Function (7)
  - Spanish river (3)
  - Ran down (3)
  - Own (7)
- DOWN
- Pop dances (4)
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## THE TIMES

## Tomorrow

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FRIDAY PAGE

Andrey Slaughter reports on the latest lucrative business scheme - running homes for the elderly

# Cashing in on the granny boom

Grannies are big business. In fact, growing old is one of the few growth areas in the economy. There are more grannies, and grandfathers (though thanks to female longevity there are fewer of them) today than ever before, but there are fewer families so there are fewer children to take care of elderly relatives. Smaller houses (so there is less room to swim a granny, and career-minded mothers (who find it even more difficult to obtain an au pair for their mothers than for their toddlers) have cut the number of carers in the family, but better health has meant the elderly live on - and on.

Small-scale entrepreneurs used to find holiday homes, caravan sites and laundrettes a good, trouble-free, lucrative outlet for their capital; very little managerial skills or attention needed, no special qualifications. Today, with an eye on Britain's ageing population, they find to their surprise and delight that a private old people's home is highly profitable and, thanks to some extremely lax regulations, almost anyone can slap a bit of paint on a redundant motel and open a "Twilight Home" as they are dubbed in the U.S. Provided fire regulations are observed, the overworked local authority is not strict about registering a home - it has not the staff or the budget to carry out systematic inspections. One matron of a Bedfordshire home calmly shipped off her surplus residents when the local social services inspector was expected, dumping them with a variety of ex-employees

until the danger of being charged with overcrowing was over. Naturally this varies from authority to authority, but on the whole the social services department, faced with taking in and confining old people into homes in the public sector, is only too happy to have the pressure eased by a private entrepreneur.

"I made up my mind never to be a burden to anyone," said my 92-year-old spinster aunt and, with the same firmness and organizational skill she had used in running her village church, county council and front-line hospital in two world wars, checked out the options and installed herself in a private residential home for old people. She was tired of the problems of running her own two-storey home and garden and was firm in her resolve not to live with me.

Unfortunately, the brochures describing old people's homes are about as accurate as an estate agent's. Having settled on one within visiting distance of her friends, my aunt was shown around by a gracious woman wearing a sympathy smile and an artificial if unbecomingly white medical coat. She readily agreed that my aunt could bring her own bed and favourite armchair. The chairlift sliding up the long flight of stairs, the sun lounge and the television room were prominently featured. Mention was made of night staff. Satisfied with the facilities my aunt (paradoxically shocked by the wages/colour television/car demanded by housekeepers) calmly agreed to pay almost £200 a week for a room and

bathroom. The room is largely furnished with her own things, something which she finds a comfort - and so does the proprietor, whose capital outlay is thus reduced.

That was the last my aunt saw of the gracious lady, except for one brief moment when she bustled in without knocking to show my aunt's room to new prospective. In the two years she has been there she has changed from an autocratic old dear with a keen intelligence and sharp sense of humour, to a tired and defeated old lady waiting for death. "Please God I won't be here next spring, next Christmas, next month," she says with distressing frequency, huddled in a chair, smothered in rugs and clutching a hot water bottle.

The home's brochure talks about a family atmosphere. The family must be a very strange one. The home is staffed by a series of part-time village women who are kindly enough, but preoccupied with their own families and anxious to get back to them. There's no time to stop and chat and cheer. Meal times and help with baths are efficient, but perfunctory. The food is abysmal - tough stews, badly cooked vegetables and invariably a commercial ice cream which may be kind to dentures, but is short on nutrition and imagination.

Visitors are discouraged from coming at tea-time because of the strain on the domestic staff (a euphemism for the part-timers) who are apparently overwhelmed by the task of providing thick cups of even thicker brownish fluid and a dry biscuit or two. When we visit, we



take a picnic of a decent grade of tea in the fine china cups my aunt misses so much. In fact, it is the utilitarian slop of the china and cutlery which most of the inhabitants feel so keenly. The "24-hour medical staffing" claimed in the brochure is, in reality, a 70-year-old retired nurse dozing in the kitchen, but willing to bring a comforting cup of tea in the middle of the night if required - one of the few thoughtful touches for old people who nap a lot

during the day and sleep fitfully as a result.

My aunt has had three falls since she has been there. The first time was during the night, when she tripped on a dangerous bedside rug on her way to the bathroom and, out of reach of her bell, lay there helpless and cold until breakfast was served at 8am. The second time she fell from her high, old-fashioned bed during an afternoon nap and fractured her pelvis. She was

unceremoniously bundled off to a hospital alone.

But she is lucky. She could have been born without a private income and in that case her pensioners did not provide pension schemes - like Nellie, featured in one of the excellent BBC *Brass Tacks* documentaries last October called "Tender, loving neglect". Nellie, arthritic, infirm, lived alone on an impersonal council estate sometimes forgetting to eat, often finding the effort of

fitting a plug into a kettle to make herself a cup of tea too much for her. Watching the film of her palsied hands endeavouring to pour boiling water into a teapot, one almost wished she wouldn't try. Nellie desperately wished for a place in a home. "I must be able to be some, help on my good days," she offered, but she had to come to terms with the fact that there were 38 people ahead of her in a queue for one place in the local authority home.

In the same film, former ballerina Lady Maria Holly and her companion had taken themselves off to a private home, like my aunt. "Why did you give up your independence?" reporter Tony Wilson asked. "I don't know what to say about independence really," Lady Holly said matter-of-factly, "because when you're old, you're not independent." Certainly my aunt, for all her comparative wealth, is not independent. "Don't complain," she begged of me when I was indignant about the lack of interest from the proprietor and the indifferent efforts of the cook. "They'll only ask me to go if I'm a nuisance. At least if you're dying here they don't turn you out. Some places do. As soon as you're ill they pack you off to hospital. Here, I can die in my own bed."

It is obvious that with our ageing population, the problem of care is going to become even more acute. For reasonably active pensioners there's a lot to be said for the small, purpose-built flats and bungalows looked after by a wardenship. But there is still the problem that if you become really infirm and need nursing, there are few facilities in such an arrangement to stay. The prospect of dying in alien, impersonal surroundings terrifies many old people, even if they've come to terms with death itself. Swinging cots in health services and a shortage of local authority funds means that the situation is not going to get better in the public sector, which is why the private sector, booming and speculative even from across the Atlantic are brooding over expansion plans here.

Meanwhile, beady-eyed businessmen are moving in to clean up cynically aware that they're more than a match for a hard-pressed social services department inspector assessing their fitness to be registered as a twilight home.



On the beat: William Ellis at Parsons House, Paddington, where 96 out of the 120 flats in the block have joined the neighbourhood scheme

## How a watching brief can beat the burglars

One evening recently, 200 west London residents resisted the temptations of *Dallas*, and went out in the rain to meet their local policeman. In a Boys' Brigade hall officers were waiting, tea, coffee and biscuits at the ready, to put forward a proposition of mutual assistance.

The keynote of the evening was struck by a superintendent who described the story of a harassed American police captain in a Hollywood thriller who told his critics that he could solve crime if only he could put a man on every street corner. Such a hope could no more be achieved in the reality of London than it could in a celluloid fiction.

But it was possible, said the superintendent, to have the next best thing: a local population which

was alert to the risk of crime, advertising its awareness and therefore deterring the vandal, the burglar and the car thief. Was it time central Fulham had a neighbourhood watch?

At the end of the meeting 104 people apparently thought it was. The special research unit at Fulham police station calculated that they had volunteers in 39 out of 43 streets for beat number six, running north of the New King's Road among expensive terraced houses and flats.

Since the neighbourhood watch scheme was launched last September more than 69 watches have been formed in London and more than 72 others are under discussion. The scheme is based on an American idea - Scotland Yard officers drew up their plans on a Seattle blueprint

- and the aim is to organize residents in small areas, street by street.

Each street has a coordinator who acts as liaison with the local beat constable. Members of the watch keep an eye on each other's property and report to police anything suspicious. The police supply materials for a property marking system based on post codes. Owners can stamp or write their codes on items of value to help police identify them.

The Yard hopes Fulham will prove a showcase for how the scheme can work. The largest watch in London is operating in 43 streets round Hurlingham on Fulham's beat seven after an inaugural meeting of 450 people.

Members of the watch receive a newsletter noting crime trends in the

area, suspicious characters and ways of taking precautions. What was a bad area for burglary in the Fulham division saw a reduction of more than 50 per cent in break-ins in the first few months of the watch.

Such interest, it perhaps not surprising in an area of expensive houses where middle-class owners feel they have a great deal to lose. Yet when police in the Paddington area canvassed an expensive area of Maida Vale before Christmas by sending out letters with returnable forms, they received 24 replies from 240 letters.

Many officers believe the watches will be much more difficult to set up in the areas where they are most needed such as the vast, often down-at-heel council estates.

But the residents of Parsons

House, a 20-storey block overlooking Edgware Road, went to their local station last October and asked for a watch to be set up. It should be said the inspiration was a tenant who works for the police, but none the less 96 out of the 120 flats in the block joined the watch.

The residents, a fifth of whom are old age pensioners, say the immediate effect of the watch is a reduction in the amount of vandalism.

The block, with some 400 residents, is in the centre of a much larger estate, but to date no one in the rest of the area has shown interest in widening the scheme. Perhaps the situation will change as Parsons House erects an official sign announcing it has a watch operating.

Stewart Tendler

### Laser hope

Lord Cledwyn, leader of the Opposition in the Lords and former Secretary of State for Wales, was as Cledwyn Hughes, MP for Angely for 28 years. But though he has had a lifetime in politics, perhaps the most testing trials of his life were not on the hustings but as a schoolboy, when he had to learn to ignore the heartless urosity excited by a haemangioma, a portwine birthmark, on his face.

Lord Cledwyn's friendly gregarious nature stood him in as good stead on the playground as in Parliament, and he triumphed, but many le-determined children suffer misery and lasting psychological damage. Recent research work in argor laser therapy by John Carruth at Southampton, offers these children a hope of a less complicated childhood.

In 1977 Mr Carruth, a surgeon, went to the US to study the use of a carbon-dioxide laser used in the treatment of warts of the head and neck. Lier his work in this field came to the attention of the disaught parents of a child with facial haemangioma. Mr Carruth explained that an arg laser used experimentally in the US for dermatology was quite different to a carbon-dioxide laser but, interested by the challenge presented by the child's case, he returned there to learn about argor laser.

Not all patients d'equality well: the best cosmetic effect is achieved on people with very light skin and treatment is impossible for the very dark-skinned. There is also a conventional belief that treatment should be postponed until the late teens but Mr Carruth is working to define the earliest age at which children can start. He is treating children as young as four, five and six and is getting good results.

Before any widespread treatment is attempted, a test patch about the size of a fingernail is treated and then watched for six months. If scarring, which can be more difficult to hide than the birthmark, is avoided, the birthmark can be removed by minimal power necessary for blanching and a very slow treatment has to be very slow and careful: it may well take years.

Laser therapy badly adminis-

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

## Blood test for undergraduates

Prince Edward's attack of infectious mononucleosis fortuitously coincided with detailed accounts of the disease in *Update*, the postgraduate magazine, and in *The Lancet*, so that patients' searching questions were answered with authority. Parists insist that although the most laymen refer to infectious mononucleosis as glandular fever there is a difference between them.

Glandular fever was first described in 1889 as a disease of young children; it probably represents a syndrome with a variety of causes. Infectious mononucleosis was identified in 1920 but not until 1968 was it realized that it was one of the many diseases caused by the Epstein Barr virus first isolated four years earlier.

The majority of Prince Edward's fellow undergraduates would have been infected before they got to Cambridge. A study has shown that 57 per cent of students have antibodies to the virus by the time they start their university career; only a very

small proportion of them will have noticed any signs or symptoms. Diagnosis is confirmed by blood tests including the finding of antibodies to the Epstein Barr virus.

Infectious mononucleosis is traditionally supposed to appear in three different ways: the angiose type, when a severe sore throat is the main trouble; glandular type, when enlarged painful lymph glands and spleen predominate, and the febrile type, when the patient has a recurrent temperature. In practice most cases are a mixture of all these types. Another common sign is a rash, made worse if ampicillin has been used to treat the sore throat. Most patients recover from the acute symptoms within three weeks.

Infective mononucleosis, like any other viral infection, can cause post-viral depression. In most cases some degree of tiredness and lassitude after the illness is to be expected. Rare complications include jaundice, myocarditis, anaemia, bruising, even meningitis.

### Nose-drop hints

A child with a stuffy nose is often prescribed nose drops in the belief that, by improving drainage, they help treat the common complications of sinusitis and earache. Mr Robert Pracy, formerly of Great Ormond Street Hospital, has written on the difficulty of administering these drops.

In theory the child should lie on his or her back with the head hanging vertically over the edge of a bed. A measured number of drops, warmed to blood heat, should be put into each nostril and the child should then stay in this position for two minutes while absorption takes place.

### Orange Caution

Doctors are adept at spotting the orange glow to the skin of the patient who has sought a tan not from the beach or ski slopes, but from tablets rich in carotenoid, the pigments found in oranges and carrots. However healthy the face may look, the diagnosis can be confirmed by looking at the palms, stained a less-than-alluring carrot colour.

Despite this previous experience a recent epidemic, reported in *Medical News*, of an outbreak of orange hands and feet among north London schoolchildren defied diagnosis and so was brought to the attention of the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre. Fortunately, it was found that they were not suffering from any viral disease but from an excessive intake of orange citrus fruit, particularly Spanish satsumas.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Primrose path

Lady Olga Maitland, that effervescent defence campaigner, will use the Young Conservatives' annual conference in Blackpool this weekend as a launch-pad for a new magazine called, originally enough, *The Defence Campaigner*. Lady Olga, power behind the supposedly non-party Women and Families for Defence CND - tells me that the new quarterly (5,000 copies at 30p each) will plead for people to come forward with tales of "peace studies" being infiltrated into school lessons. "Parents are very intimidated, and I don't complain about what their children are taught, and that's usually unilateralism, from left-wing teachers," she said. "In my day at school, we hardly knew what politics were."

Times change. The editor of *The Defence Campaigner* is a 16-year-old schoolgirl who certainly knows what politics are. Janet Parrett is not only studying politics and world history, economics and government at A-level, but she is also chairman of Eltham Young Conservatives.

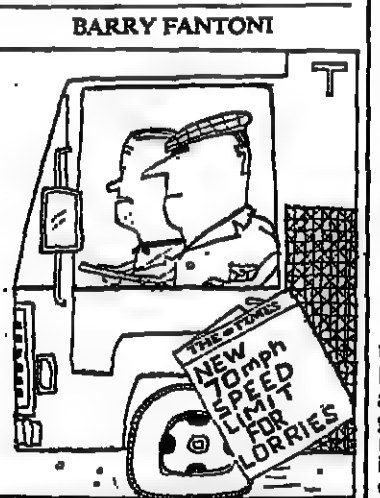
### The sting

As if there was not already teeth-gnashing among the publishers who passed up the opportunity to seize what looks like being the novel of the season, *The Wasp Factory* (even now going into reprint) before publication next week, the BBC has unwittingly added insult to injury. Featuring the first-time author, Ian Banks, on its cerebral *Bookmark* programme, the Beeb needed a first World War bunker in which to film a dramatized extract from the novel, but since none was available settled instead for the cellar of a house in Tooling Bec - owned by the publicity director of a rival publisher.

© *The Kentish Gazette* carried a job-seeking classified advertisement from an "ex-patriot" managing director. Perhaps the KGB could employ him.

### Blunderland

Queen Victoria as the author of *Alice in Wonderland*? What nonsense! David Rosenbaum and the Continental Historical Society of San Francisco are way off beam when they suggest in their book *Queen Victoria's Alice* that the real Lewis Carroll was Her Majesty rather than Charles Dodgson. Dodgson denied authorship because of the 1880 scandal arising from his hobby of photographing little girls in what he called "their favourite dress of nothing to wear". It is even possible that he was the victim of a blackmail attempt based on his special interest. Indeed, a new "fiction" novel by Donald Thomas, *Bella Donna: A Lewis Carroll Nightmare*, published next month, suggests that Dodgson could have been involved with Charles Augustus Howells, the notorious blackmailer immortalized as Milverton in a Sherlock Holmes story.



BARRY FANTONI  
"I can't get used to not slowing down when I see the police"

### Assisted passage

In another chapter of the *Spectator* saga, Alexander Chancellor told his readers yesterday that he is "less than happy" about his departure after nine years in the editor's chair, though he is delighted with the choice of his successor, Charles Moore. Mr Chancellor writes: "I am looking forward to some fresh air. It's quite hard to be out of a job, but it's good to know that Algy Cluff, the proprietor, is so obliging."

### Voting early

As Vice-President George Bush arrives in London this weekend, his political opponents are limbering up for an early round of the seemingly interminable US election campaign. The Democrats' Abroad organization is sending out tomorrow the first ballot papers for the overseas primary vote in which American expatriates can choose their Democratic presidential candidate and their 10 delegates to the party convention in July. This year's overseas vote, to be declared on March 13, is particularly important to the Democratic front-runners, Walter Mondale, John Glenn and Jesse Jackson, because it will be one of the first tests of opinion, following the Iowa caucuses and the first primary in New Hampshire. Furthermore, the overseas delegates will be more likely to vote at the convention, so they could be crucial to the wheeling and dealing that goes on. The \$80,000 or so Americans in Britain, all of whom naturally read this column, may obtain ballot papers from Democrats Abroad, 78 Redcliffe Square, London SW10.

## Jenkin's Green Belt U-turn

Private house builders seldom win popularity polls. Architects despise their little boxes and their under-employment of architects. Defenders of green fields blame them for despoiling England's pleasant land. No owners of a des. res. want a Wimpey house of the corner or Barratt building over the waste ground where they take their dogs for a walk.

On occasion the builders deserve the criticism, but now - after yesterday's government pronouncement on the Green Belt - they have a case. Their complaint is this. On one side of Whitehall they are praised by Treasury ministers as an engine of growth, intensive employers of labour, heavy users of domestically-produced materials. Employment ministers urge people to move to jobs, and presumably intend them to live in houses in employment areas. Housing ministers say council house building is a residual sector, that housing policy is now carried on the backs of the private sector. Fine, says the House Builders Federation, only too happy to be seen to combine the public interest with profit. But what about the Environment Secretary, who doubles as the minister for town and country planning?

When Mrs Thatcher appointed Patrick Jenkin to head the department last year, the times seemed right to nudge the pendulum which has swung unevenly between development and control ever since the planning system was put in place in 1947. (Whatever Mr Jenkin's predecessor, Mr Michael Heseltine, may have said, there had since 1979 been

no bonfire of planning controls.) Mr Jenkin issued two circulars in rapid succession, guidance on what councils should do and indications of how he would jump if he were to adjudicate on councils' refusal to permit housing development. To the builders it seemed as if overall government policy was becoming consistent; that a new era of relative liberality was beginning. No one was proposing putting two-bedroom apartments on beauty spots such as Box Hill. But Jenkin was hinting that if councils were too tight with land and private housing on the edges of Green Belt territory, he would back the builders. In other words, if the (usually Conservative) councillors of Epsom or Hitchin or High Wycombe insisted on drawing the Green Belt's boundary right up to the front door of Boots in the High Street, the government would slacken it off.

Not for the first time, Jenkin showed a lack of political acumen in the way the circulars were presented. Luck went against him, too, because at about the same time the suburban squinchery had been alarmed by a builders' proposal to plant new commuter villages in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and the other counties around London.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England entered the fray in alliance with the shire counties. Jenkin, besieged by his own backbenchers, conceded; the circulars were withdrawn.

Yesterday they reappeared, sanitized, cleansed of offending passages and resolutely green. They still

suggest, albeit in a rather vague way, that builders deserve a little generosity. But now they earn the CPRE's plaudits for fixing the Green Belt's boundaries and endorsing the apparatus of control in existing "structure" (county) and local plans.

The builders cannot be blamed for feeling they are back at square one, with government policy exhibiting a gross inconsistency. Whitehall wants the houses but is not prepared to will the land supply; ministers appear to have set their faces against those who will want to buy or move house in the South-east but do not already have the good fortune to live in Chorleywood or Thameley Wells.

Calculations of land supply and housing demand are too fragile for the builders' case to be accepted in its entirety. Land for building has been allocated in the suburban counties; what remains of the "regional strategy" for the South-east claims there is plenty of scope in designated growth areas such as Milton Keynes or Wokingham. But what of the principles of free choice and market economics which ought to put a premium on people making up their own mind about where to live and in what kind of home?

The builders' case is strengthened because of what neither of these two circulars dare mention: London. Even assuming that it is acceptable to keep migrants from less-favoured areas out of the South-east, tightening the Green Belt will not stop Londoners escaping outwards. It will add to pressures on available land and ultimately on house prices in the rest of the South-east.

If you are a self-regarding resident of Herts (especially if you are the county planner or a local politician) the one thing you devoutly wish is long life and prosperity for the GLC. For without this "strategic" view and lots of public money, most of the implicit assumptions in the government's plans do not stand up.

The circular on Green Belts, as amended, makes pious reference to refurbishing the inner cities, so increasing the supply and attractiveness of housing within the metropolitan areas and easing pressures on the periphery. Fine as a principle, but refurbishment is very expensive and there will still be many people who don't fancy living on Beckett marshes or joining those intrepid colonizers of the Isle of Dogs.

The builders' case against the tightness of planning policy in the Home Counties will be strengthened unless there is substantially more public money for city housing, home improvements, infrastructure and development. Alternatively there could be a fiscal revolution, for example abolishing mortgage tax relief, a measure which could have a remarkable effect on the supply of housing and reduce the need for new building. Given Mrs Thatcher's predilections, that is unlikely.

What remains for the next few years (if the 1990s is a recipe for builders' unhappiness, house-buyers' frustration and oddly for a government that once talked about rolling back the boundaries of the state, an enhanced role for town and county hall planning bureaucrats.

David Walker

## An Iranian dream turned sour

After five years of religious-inspired terror and executions, **Hazhir Teimourian reports on everyday life in a country where chess is taboo and a tube of toothpaste costs £4**

An English woman who recently spent a month in Tehran reported a strange sensation when she returned home: she found the colourful make-up and clothes of fellow westerners shockingly garish. She had become curiously accustomed to the austerity of prescribed dress in Iran, where women are encouraged to wear the all-enveloping black *chador* (literally, a tent) outside the home, and where the slightest trace of make-up entails the risk of many months in jail.

When, five years ago tomorrow, millions of Iranians poured out to the streets of Tehran to welcome Ayatollah Khomeini on his return from exile in France, they knew that their new alliance with the clergy meant at least a change of style: out would go the open adoration of the values of a consumer society, and in would come, for example, a greater emphasis on personal modesty. It was not foreseen by the majority that the clergy would soon develop a liking for power, and that their state would have to be recreated along lines decreed in the Koran by Allah.

After all, the Ayatollah did promise that he would go back to his theological school in Qom and leave the running of the government to elected politicians in the capital.

Today, by all accounts, the great majority of Iranians are sorely disillusioned with their new circumstances, but the militant clergy have established tight control over most of the country and, short of another revolution, will continue their march towards their ideal of an Islamic state.

However, life under the mullahs is not merely the austere existence advocated by the men of religion with an eye on the greater luxuries of the other world. A five-year war with the Kurds in the western mountains of Kurdistan and the



February 1979: Women in Tehran pay homage to their returned Ayatollah. The mood today is of disenchantment and depression

much more ruinous conflict with Iraq over the past three years have brought in their wake many extra hardships that even the clergy do not welcome. One can become accustomed to the total banning of music on the radio, but having to queue many hours each day for bread and tea without a guarantee of avoiding disappointment at the end - is quite a different matter.

Looking into the future, the government faces a number of seemingly insurmountable problems: the fast-rising population (of 40 million people) has a far longer life expectancy than its forebears, the war with Iraq has reached a stalemate, and no clergyman who could become a creditable successor to 85-year-old Ayatollah Khomeini is within sight.

If there is any sign of a benefit on the horizon of Islamic Iran, it is in the strengthening of family bonds. Entertainment outside the home has been severely curtailed. Theatres and cinemas have been closed, or made to concentrate on humourless revolutionary films from countries such as North Korea. As a result, more people choose to visit friends and relatives, but even here the possibilities are limited. Alcohol is not available to lighten the mood, and Revolutionary Guards have sometimes invaded houses in search of playing cards, chess pieces and backgammon boards.

No formal laws have been passed to ban the playing of chess or the painting of landscapes, but such laws are not necessary. Every clergyman is supposed to be a qualified

interpreter of the will of God in his locality, and his armed guards carry out his wishes obediently, transforming him into the undisputed king of the area. Such possessions as tapestries or the poetry of Omar Khayyam are regarded as circumstantial evidence proving moral perversion and counter-revolutionary tendencies.

One favourite pastime has become the reading of books of history - especially ancient history - as these are not regarded by the authorities as dangerous influences. The importation of radio sets with short-wave reception is banned, though many a household still possesses them and secretly listens to foreign stations. The local media are under the complete control of the clergy, but even here it is possible to find surprises that seem to have escaped the attention of the censor. Recently, a leading magazine sent a number of reporters on to the streets of Tehran to interview people on their views on the war with Iraq and on the general situation. Of 27 answers that were published, only two supported the government.

Shortages of food and basic requirements provide one of the main causes of dissatisfaction. Tea costs the equivalent of £15 a pound on the black market, and a tube of toothpaste £4.25, if it could be found at all. In addition, there are regular and prolonged power cuts all over the country, and in some regions heating oil has been unobtainable during the present, bitterly cold winter.

Perhaps the most important side-effect of the revolution has been the blow it has dealt the self-esteem of the nation. A lorry driver who supported Khomeini now says: "I wish someone would pour petrol over us and set it alight. We are good for nothing." A more sanguine view was expressed to me by an industrialist who is thinking of emigrating: "We are all depressed. There are many suicides, especially among the young. The closure of the universities over the past three years has been a body blow to their hopes. The least educated element among us has taken over the reins, and that is that. The same thing happened in Germany before the Second World War."

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## Index-linking: no longer what it was but it still figures

which, far from being scrapped, should - by implication at least - be extended to the private sector. The report also emphasized the fact, sometimes forgotten by critics of index-linking, that public employees already pay higher contribution rates than workers in private industry. The average contribution rate in the private sector, according to the latest surveys, is 4.31 per cent of employees' pay, compared with rates in the public sector that range from 5 per cent for manual workers in the health service and local government to 11 per cent for policemen.

Raising contribution rates is another approach to the problem. The police were the first public sector group to feel the impact, with an increase in rates of between 3 and 4 per cent in 1982. Then, last year, the firemen's contribution rate was raised by 4 per cent in two stages, though not before the proposals had brought the firemen's union to the brink of a national strike.

Now the spotlight has shifted to the main public sector groups. The Government's intention appears to be to bring contribution rates in the

NHS, local government and education service into line with the 8 per cent effectively paid by civil servants. Earlier plans to raise the civil servants' contribution rate itself appear to have been postponed for the time being. There are likely to be further increases in contribution rates in later years.

These moves stand to save the Government a lot of money. Since the early 1970s, when index-linking became standard practice in the public sector, the gross cost of paying the pension benefits of public sector workers has soared. For the main groups alone - teachers, civil servants, health and local government workers - retirement benefits paid out have jumped from £314m in 1970-71 to £3,300m in 1982-3. The total public sector pension bill is running at more than £4,400m, roughly 3 per cent of total government spending.

That is the gross cost to the state. The net cost, after allowing for employee contributions of £1,200m, and the £600m of pay that civil servants and police forgo in lieu of pension contributions, is still more than £2,000m. Raising the employee

### Index-linked public-service pensions

Members of pension schemes (thousands)	Total expenditure on benefits (£ million)	Employee contribution (£ million)	Average weekly pension (£)
Civil Service	657	1,057	350
Local government	1,080	740	32.70
Teachers	513	925	51.90
NHS	820	621	35.40
Police	133	23	100
Fire	39	58	39.60
Armed forces	321	663	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,643</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>1,825</b>

\*Excludes from pay

Source: Treasury 1982/3 estimates

contribution rates for the three groups now threatened will save the Treasury an estimated £370m a year.

The Treasury has to pick up much of the bill for retirement benefits because most public sector pension schemes are purely notional. There is no actual fund of employee and employer contributions to be invested and managed, as there is in the private sector, and pensions are paid out of the government's revenue budget.

Ironically, the Government's new drive for higher contributions is taking place at a time when inflation has fallen to a level - about 5 per cent - at which index-linking is no longer of such obvious advantage to public sector employees. Whereas fewer than 2 per cent of private sector pension schemes guarantee to index-link their pension benefits, more than a quarter guarantee to increase benefits each year by between 3 and 4 per cent. Many others use their discretion to top up the value of benefits each year.

When inflation was running at more than 20 per cent, this meant that only the richest oil companies and banks could effectively give their pensioners anything like protection against inflation. Now it is something that many more schemes can afford to do, particularly as the present boom in world stock markets is giving pension funds some healthy investment profits.

But an index-linked pension is still worth significantly more than an unprotected pension. In what is seen as an important prelude to its planned flotation on the stock market next year, British Airways is proposing to buy out its workers' rights to an index-linked pension at a potential cost of up to £200m. The Government and the airline's City advisers have made it clear that a company burdened with the potentially unlimited cost of an index-linked scheme will be much less attractive to investors than one with a conventional scheme.

David Felton and Jonathan Davis

David Watt

## South Africa: a shift or a sham?

I have been visiting South Africa for the first time in four years and found two starkly different views among South Africans about what is happening in their sad and divinely beautiful country.

White conservatives and businessmen assure me that everything, at last, is beginning to change. It is said that the Prime Minister, P. W. Botha, has seen the light and is now preparing to follow the logic of South Africa's predicament. The country cannot prosper economically in the new international climate without a far larger pool of skilled workers and middle management. Since the base provided by the white population is manifestly inadequate for this purpose, it must be supplemented by the coloured, Indian and, ultimately, the black population. Educational and economic advancement will inevitably entail political advancement in the long run, whether the Afrikaner diehards like it or not, and it is this nettle that Botha is now supposed to be ready to grasp.

The new constitution, with its separate houses of parliament and ministries for the white, Indian and coloured communities is on this interpretation, the first tentative shot at breaking the mould - and English-speaking whites, as well as Afrikaners, voted for it in droves. Botha's success in the (white) referendum on the new arrangements last year, combined with visible strengthening of South Africa's security on her northern borders in the last 12 months, has given Mr Botha the confidence to drag his party into the twentieth century, and we shall soon witness all sorts of other evidence of progress, involving black Africans as well as the other races.

Liberals have a very different perspective on all this. They believe that the Afrikaners cannot possibly accept the prospect of losing real control of the development of South Africa and that it is therefore futile to think that they seriously envisage any genuine sharing of power. The new constitution is regarded by liberals as evidence of this. It offers nothing substantial to coloureds or Indians, who can always be overruled in the white chamber, and it offers less than nothing to blacks, whose representation outside their "homelands" is confined to town council level. In other words it is a complete sham.

Other recent pieces of evidence can be produced to support the general indictment. The black education system, which ought in theory to be the centrepiece of any attempt to improve economic performance, is in dreadfully bad shape and gets no better in spite of government reassurances. Petty apartheid regulations are less in evidence than they were - more blacks in bars and lounges of the big hotels; no "whites only" notices on park benches; a less onerous censorship. But the central core of apartheid remains untouched: the laws which forbid blacks to live in white areas, or indeed anywhere outside their "homelands", without a pass. Far from being relaxed, these are now to be enforced with greater rigour.

The urban black who has, as it were, got in under the wire may find his lot marginally improved, but all the rest, including the million or more who are living in the townships illegally, are to be bannished back into the rural poverty traps in the Bantustans. According to the liberal version, the vistas of constitutional change now being opened up do not begin to touch these realities: for which reason internal violence and ultimately civil war continue to make their slow, but inexorable approach.

There is no way, at present, of

deciding for certain which of these two scenarios is correct. The government has not yet had time to show its new hand, if it is one. It has not even put the new constitution into effect. And yet it seems to me, after two weeks in South Africa, that some provisional conclusions spring to mind.

First, it is obvious that the great southern African "bloodbath" has been drastically postponed by the turn of events in the last year or two. Externally, the relative strength of South Africa's economy, and her well-proved ability to destabilize her neighbours at will, has cooled left-wing Zimbabwe into refusing to harbour African National Congress terrorists and has just left the Mozambique President, Machel, for peace. The latest South African withdrawal from southern Angola and Mr Botha's talk of possible moves towards a Namibia settlement, are signs of South African strength rather than weakness. Domestically, there is no sign that the security police are losing their grip. Occasional bombs and boycotts bear witness to the seething bitterness beneath the surface, but control is so complete that there are now more than 11 people "banned" (that is, excluded from all political and much social activity) in the whole of South Africa, compared with several hundred a few years ago.

There is no obvious reason why this mastery should be undermined in the near or even the medium-term future, and this, of course, is one of the factors that leads moderate conservatives to optimism. There is now time, they say, for a gradual, non-violent evolution of South Africa to take place. I wish I could believe that it would happen, but I remain deeply sceptical. Even the younger, "enlightened" Afrikaner intellectuals and politicians I have met do not really accept the need to do more than tinker with the problems of the urban blacks. And as for the English-speaking whites in the business community, they seem to me subtly but when reminded that they were when I last encountered them.

This last is an important development, because it casts doubt on the efficacy of the "change-through-economic-necessity" argument, and the reasons for it are not hard to find. For one thing, without the spur of imminent trouble it is painfully easy in South Africa to lapse into complacency. For another, the same events to the north have taken off the external pressure have finally convinced many white South Africans, formerly of mildly liberal persuasion, that the black African is irretrievably incompetent to run a country. Africa is seen to be going down the plughole under black management and therefore the notion of handing over to a black successor regime in South Africa is a formula for certain chaos and destruction, even if the change could be peacefully brought about. The degree of philosophical detachment and historical perspective required to think of this as a necessary stage of evolution is not surprisingly, beyond most whites.

Where this loves western policy is a matter to which I will return later, but meanwhile I can't honestly say that I am away from South Africa much less depressed about the future here than when I went. Economic necessity may, I will concede, force improvement in black education, but the link in the causal chain which is supposed to produce peaceful political advance thereafter seems to be missing. The will among whites to supply it simply does not exist, and that being so, the most likely link to progress will in the long run be a violent one - and forged by blacks.

Philip Howard

## After the Marbles, send back the Cross

Well, I dare say we should give Melina back her marbles; and the Winged Victory should go home from the Louvre to Samothrace; and the altar of Zeus should be repatriated from the Staatliche Museum, Berlin, to Pergamon; and we could drag Stonehenge back to Preseli Mountain in Pembrokeshire. The Nottingham Museums will send home to Nemi the mysteries of Diana.

But I hear whispers of a move to repatriate a treasure the importance of which makes even the Elgin Marbles freeze into a back, enabla-tion. The Israeli Committee for the Restitution of the Cross of Yeshu invites your support. The Persian, Roman, Frankish and Ottoman invasions or occupations of Israel caused even greater destruction of indigenous Cultural Monuments than they did in Greece. After the Roman destruction of the Temple, the Cross of Yeshu survived as a major cultural heritage of the Israeli People.

Of distinguished local ancestry, the Israeli freedom-fighter, Yeshu of Nazareth, was crucified at Yerushalayim in about 30 CE by the Roman Gauleiter, P. Pilate, during the reign of the Quisling tetrarch, H. Antipas of Yehudah. But the Israeli People faithfully preserved Yeshu's Cross by hiding it under the ground. However, in about 326 CE, the British aristocrat and amateur archaeologist Helena took advantage of her connections with the Occupying Regime to conduct an illicit excavation at Golgotha, for which no permit from the Israeli Archaeological Service has been traced.

She "invented" the Cross of Yeshu, which European Museums still misname "The True Cross", or even "The Cross of Helena" (see Knesset Hansard 1972 CE). Persians

and Romans subsequently scrambled for the Crosses a spoil of war, but most of it found its way to a museum in Istanbul in about 627 CE. Thenceforth, many "pilgrims" and some posing as cultural "pioneers", indulged the Cross, stealing, bartering or buying fragments as souvenirs that were placed in European museums. Here the remains are kept in unscientific conditions (in non-air-conditioned "monstrances" exposed to candle-light and polluted atmosphere, and sometimes even offered to unauthorized persons if them to touch and kiss).

Two other committees have expressed interest in the Cross of Yeshu. Their claims are spurious.

● The Antisemitological Committee (chairman: J. Calvin Geneva) maintain that the Cross is of no cultural significance to anyone, and that if all fragments were purloined were reassembled they would be enough to build a ship. As matters of fact, we reject both propositions.

● The Cross Bongs to The Cultural Heritage of All the World Committee (chairman: J. Paul, director, Vatican Museum, and other museum directors) maintains that the Cross is international cultural significance, is supporters argue that by preserving and displaying the Cross they are promoting Israeli culture abroad in a way in which Israeli have, until recently, shown no interest.

To this we say that the Cross of Yeshu is an inalienable part of the Israeli Cultural Heritage, snatched out of its context by the British aristocrat Helena. We demand its restitution to the Israeli People under Resolution 4/09 adopted by the General Conference UNESCO.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## A TALE OF TWO BUDGETS

In privacy and apparent harmony, Mrs Thatcher's cabinet yesterday conducted its pre-Budget economic confabulation. The financial markets were quite unconcerned. Across the Atlantic, President Reagan's official advisers have been publicly and even abusively disagreeing about the consequences of his budget projections, frightening Wall Street and unsettling the dollar.

Open government is a virtue, and in Britain we still have too little information before the final decisions are taken on public expenditure and taxes - though Mr Nigel Lawson's promise of a green paper on long-term public spending is a welcome step further. But the American Administration is currently offering a parody of frankness which is an insult to all those dependent on the western world's largest economy.

To begin with this year, the financial markets were encouraged not to look too closely at the gaping hole in the President's Budget projections. It is, as his Treasury Secretary Donald Regan keeps reminding everyone, "a political year". In other words, don't worry if the President gets nowhere with his appeal to Congress for bipartisan agreement on budget reductions: if the figures don't add up, we'll put them right after the presidential election.

To their credit, neither Mr Martin Feldstein of the President's Council of Economic Advisers nor Mr David Stockman, his outspoken budget director, have been prepared to

mouth such soothing pap. And all this week the titanic figure of Mr Paul Volcker, the independent Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board - America's central bank - has been steadily demolishing Mr Reagan's wishful argument that big budget deficits are not a cause of high American interest rates.

Mr Volcker's view, expressed in several sessions of evidence to Congressional committees, is fair, clear - and sombre. The vast American budget deficit forces up interest rates. It is also reflected in a widening trade deficit which means America has to borrow almost equally vast sums of capital from abroad to plug the gap in its balance of payments. Most damning of all, as far as the financial markets are concerned, he told Congress that if the situation continued unchanged there would be increasing risks of a loss of confidence in the dollar.

The ideal change in American economic policy would be a cut in the budget deficit that allowed interest rates to come down, which in turn would allow the dollar to decline gently to more realistic levels. If the United States remains desperately in need of foreign capital to finance its deficit, the kind of dollar fall that would follow a loss of confidence would not be gentle at all. It is no wonder the financial markets are getting uncomfortable, and that the disagreements among the President's men are only making things worse.

For the dispute between the

managers of the budget policy is not just about the correct mix of plain speaking and electioneering that should carry them through 1984, nor even about the degree to which hard decisions can be put off until 1985. It is, increasingly, a reflection of real anxiety among those whose business it is to project the future about whether the scale of the deficit is now such that even a newly-elected President cannot begin to bridge it.

By 1985, America's boom, already slackening a little, may have subsided altogether. An incoming president will face the task of cutting spending to the bone or forcing taxes way up in the face of an economic recession. Mrs Thatcher bit on that bullet in 1981, but Mrs Thatcher did not face a powerful and independent Congress, with its own views on every detail of public expenditure. Nor has any American president ever found it easy to raise taxes.

President Lyndon Johnson's failure to put taxes up to finance the Vietnam war was an early cause of the inflationary disease that has crippled the world economy from the end of the 1960s to the present day; and President Johnson was past-master at the wheeling and dealing with Congress necessary to effect the slightest change in budgetary policy. It is vital, and yet unlikely, that whoever sits in the White House in 1985 will have equal ability, plus the will, to force federal spending and taxation into line.

## BONN'S BANANA SKIN

Nobody expected Herr Kohl to be one of the great chancellors of West Germany, but he seemed in many ways to be a good choice for his time. The last years of the Social Democratic government were difficult and unsettling. Herr Schmidt was increasingly on the defensive within his own party and constantly at odds with the United States. Two of the main planks of party policy - the opening to the East and the welfare state - were bending under stress. The deployment of new missiles was looming up. It was time for a pause for re-thinking, for a re-affirmation of basic values and a restoration of contact with the ordinary people of West Germany, who respected but did not always warm to the sharp intellectualism of Herr Schmidt.

So the decent, friendly provincialism of Herr Kohl seemed to fit the bill. He formed an effective coalition government with the Free Democrats which brought a large - perhaps too large - measure of continuity in the substance of home and foreign policy, but with less noise and turbulence and a marked improvement in the tone of relations with the United States. He was criticized for a certain lack of grip and leadership but the ship of state seemed able to survive it.

Now he has run into his first real trouble over the affair of General Kiessling, a Nato deputy commander, who was prematurely retired in December for

allegedly frequenting homosexual bars. When the evidence proved impossible to sustain Herr Kohl rejected the resignation of his defence minister, Herr Wörner, and had General Kiessling re-instated, hoping thereby to put the matter to rest.

So far he has been disappointed. He emerged bruised from Wednesday's parliamentary debate on the subject, in which he was conspicuously denied support by the Bavarian wing of the party. Much of the criticism expressed publicly by the opposition is expressed privately by members of his own party. It is widely felt in Bonn that Herr Wörner has been so discredited in the public eye and among the armed services that he should be allowed to resign. Commentators have resurrected what Herr Kohl himself said some years ago when a Social Democratic defence minister was also landed in trouble by the ineptitude of the military intelligence department: that the minister had a moral obligation to carry responsibility for the affair.

Once criticism begins, everything is thrown into the pot - the corruption charges now pending against Count Lambsdorff, the Economics minister; the somewhat fumbling visit to Israel; poor preparation for the Athens summit; above all the strong impression that the decision on General Kiessling was made not on the merits of the case but in

order to avoid a cabinet reshuffle that would have exposed him to pressure to give a seat to Herr Strauss, the talented but difficult leader of the Bavarian Christian Democrats. By seeming to run away from this problem, which would cause trouble with his Free Democratic partners, he has made himself look weak.

Yet it was not an easy decision. Herr Wörner has been a good defence minister in other respects. To have let him go would have been a loss, and would have made it difficult to keep Herr Lambsdorff (who will anyway have to go if the charges against him are sustained). The coalition would have entered a wobbly phase which could have undermined its authority, and that of Herr Kohl. Nevertheless by not acting according to his own professed principles of honourable behaviour Herr Kohl has also weakened his moral and political authority.

Whether he chose the greater or the lesser evil is not really for outsiders to say, though it is difficult to imagine a British defence minister surviving a similar debacle. What matters now is how far he can re-establish his authority. One obvious way to start would be to investigate whether there are institutional reasons for the apparent ineptitude of military intelligence, which has a sensitive and important role to play in a country as exposed to espionage as West Germany.

whether to institute contempt proceedings. Where the court decides to act for itself, the fact that the aggrieved party was not asking for any sanction to be imposed would no doubt be a factor to be taken into account, but the issue would still be one between the court and the party in contempt.

There are precedents for an advance in this direction. Wilful disobedience of a court order ranks as a contemptuous civil contempt, which the court is entitled to deal with of its own motion. The court's power to order that a breach of an injunction should be reported to it was exercised by the National Industrial Relations Court, and was approved by the Phillimore Committee on Contempt in 1974. Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, when he was President of the N.I.R.C., pointed out that this procedure was less abrasive in character than the existing practice, which requires the aggrieved party, if he brings the matter back to court at all, to apply for the extreme sanction of committal or sequestration.

The court has the power to act on its own initiative: it should be more prepared to do so. Clearly the power should be exercised circumspectly, but that is no reason for not exercising it at all. Flagrant and public breaches of court orders, and cases of intimidation, call for the imposition of a sanction. The court should not have to stand by

## TREATING WITH CONTEMPT

The £10,000 fine imposed last week on Sogat '82 for disobeying a High Court order to lift its blacking of the London edition of the *Radio Times* highlights a function of the law of contempt, the protection of the public interest, which has received too little attention. The Sogat case is significant because the fine was imposed at a time when the union had already called off its action. Its purpose was not to coerce the union into obeying the court order, but to punish it for having previously refused to do so.

The principle underlying the decision to fine the union is that deliberate defiance of a court order is more than an infringement of the rights of the aggrieved party: it is also a direct challenge to the authority of the court. The public interest requires that authority to be maintained. Public confidence in the administration of justice would be seriously undermined were it to be thought that particular bodies or groups of individuals could ignore court orders with impunity. The more public and flagrant the disobedience to a court order, the more pressing the need for judicial intervention to vindicate the authority of the court and assert the primacy of the rule of law. Yet, curiously enough, the present practice of the courts does not always seem to meet this need.

The source of the problem is the voluntary nature of the court's power to enforce court

nothing, the court does nothing. Had the B.B.C., faced with Sogat's deliberate defiance of the court's order, decided not to initiate contempt proceedings against the union, nothing would have happened. There is a lacuna here in the procedure of the courts. A party who invokes and receives the court's assistance by way of an injunction should not automatically and in every case have the right thereafter to take the matter out of the court's control. It is not always just a question of private rights. Once the law has been set in motion, it has its own momentum.

The present voluntary system has other drawbacks too. So long as it is left entirely to the aggrieved party to apply to enforce the order, he remains vulnerable to intimidation by a powerful opponent. Conversely, the present system permits an aggrieved party to use his option to take proceedings for contempt as a bargaining counter in his negotiations with the other party to the dispute.

What is needed is a change of practice. In an appropriate case, where the public interest requires it, the court itself should be ready to take steps to protect that interest by seeing that its order is obeyed. As a condition of granting the injunction, the court should, where it thinks it right to do so, impose a duty on the party seeking the order to report disobedience back to the court. On such a report, the court should be able to decide for

## A question over question time

*From Lady Burton of Coventry*  
Sir, Strangers trying to listen to Prime Minister's questions in the House yesterday (February 7) must have wondered what on earth was going on. That went for many of us non-strangers, too.

Without going into the matter of who planted what questions, it does seem to me that the procedure now used for Prime Minister's question time has greatly depreciated its undoubted value. Nowadays practically every question for the Prime Minister is the same, i.e. will she detail her movements for that specific day? Any MP called can then ask any supplementary he wishes.

In the past, questions addressed to the Prime Minister were similar to those addressed to other ministers requiring a definite answer. For most MPs to have an identical question on the order paper twice weekly, week after week, would never have been tolerated. Who gains from the current custom? Not the public, not MPs who really want information and certainly not the Prime Minister.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**BURTON OF COVENTRY,**  
House of Lords.  
February 8.

## Shipping forecasts

*From Mr A. E. Somers and others*  
Sir, It is difficult for a minority group (unless news-worthy from a political point of view) to register a protest in the media, but it is hoped that you will give space to a matter of some concern to all who go to sea in small vessels.

The Cruising Association, representing 4,500 yachtsmen, is greatly concerned at the general presentation of shipping forecasts by the BBC, a matter of very considerable importance from a safety point of view.

Briefly, there are four shipping forecasts per 24 hours and ideally these should be broadcast at six-hourly intervals but instead are unevenly spaced, and a recent proposal indicates that the BBC is considering alterations which will make the spacing even more uneven, varying between four and eight hours, with the early morning forecast at 05.55 hours.

Apart from the unevenness of the timings, the earlier time for the morning broadcast will tend to discourage the inexperienced day sailor from listening, with inevitably increased demands on the search and rescue organisations.

Furthermore, the time devoted to these broadcasts - five minutes - means that the newsreader has to speak at such a speed that it is difficult to record the essential information.

Could not the BBC increase the time allowed by one or two minutes? After all, there are approximately 35,000 to 40,000 yachtsmen and fishermen who are keenly interested in these broadcasts and who represent a not inconsiderable listening group. Yours etc, A. E. SOMERS, C. A. GARNER, CHRISTINE HUGGINS, BRIAN LACEY, NOEL DILLON, HERBERT DUTTON, RICHARD BROWN, ANTHONY BROWNE, Cruising Association, Ivy House, St Katharine Dock, E1.

## Old two hundredth

*From Mr Brian G. D. Salt*  
Sir, The demise of the ha'penny as a monetary quantity may be of small importance, but the loss of the coin is another matter. For me it will probably mean that I shall have to give up smoking, since the coin is the only one that can be inserted into the slot of my lighter when I need to re-fuel it. But probably ASH would regard that as a good thing.

But the demise of the fourth leader in *The Times* (leading article, February 4) was a disaster only less important than the loss of *The Times* itself for 11 months and for shorter periods since. If you cannot get some amusement from the suggestion that we should nationalize the clouds and have a Ministry of Nebulous Planning, or from the detailed discussion in 1945 of the ownership of a dead pheasant observed on the front of a railway engine, then you are indeed a poor fellow (or poor person).

Fortunately a few authentic fourth leaders appeared after their general demise, but even these few seem to have ceased. The last that I can remember was in April, 1973, which discussed the merits or otherwise of Señora Hernandez's ambition to become a bullfighter.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**BRIAN G. D. SALT,**  
Little Sutton Cottage,  
49 Sutton Lane South,  
Chiswick, W4.

## Council spending

*From the Leader of Norwich City Council*

Sir, Mr I. D. Courts (January 11) points out that among Norfolk district councils Norwich spends 34 per cent over the Government's grant-related expenditure assessment, while four Conservative controlled authorities spend between 20 and 30 per cent under theirs.

Mr Courts's figures are selective and his conclusions questionable. He points out that the four Norfolk authorities are spending less than what the Government considers necessary to provide a standard level of service, but does not mention that the Norfolk County Council, of

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Getting more people back to work

*From Professor Anthony Clunies Ross*

Sir, Compassion and good sense demand support for the Dean of St Paul's when he pleads (February 7) for more public and private support for voluntary community-service bodies.

Yet the assumption behind his letter, that the age of work for all has gone for good, is I believe, misleading and therefore dangerous.

Popular opinion is all too ready to take an evil of a few years' standing as part of the fixed course of nature. Thus the post-war dollar shortage appeared to be part of the laws of history until it changed mysteriously in 1958-60 into the equally ineluctable dollar surplus.

The weak pound seemed to be endemic until, in 1980, we were hit by the strong pound, which acquired its own brief immortality as the petro-pound.

Most pertinently, twenty years of inter-war unemployment left even its most brilliant assailants with a view of the possibilities of full employment that turned out, for much of the period since, to be too pessimistic.

The Dean is clearly as aware as any of us that many important things need to be done and that three million or so people are more or less keen to do them. The key change needed to make this possible and acceptable is an arrangement that can keep real rates of pay at levels capable of being covered by marketable output when all willing hands are employed.

Several other European countries have achieved such an arrangement by intelligent negotiation and have for practical purposes maintained near-full employment.

The palliatives proposed by the Dean (compulsory work and pay sharing, restrictions on overtime, compulsory early retirement) would be an admission of defeat. All act to limit work rather than to promote it. If government and unions could agree on these unfamiliar, unwellcome and wasteful devices, then they could probably agree on the much less drastic measures needed for ordering pay claims so as to make full employment possible.

There is, however, one palliative recently proposed by a colleague of mine, Frank Kirwan, which deserves serious attention. It is directed towards the long-term unemployed, whose prospects look otherwise especially bleak. This is that any person who has been registered as unemployed for more than a certain period (say six months) should carry a wage subsidy to any employer who is ready to employ him as an additional worker.

That subsidy should be equal to the total net social-security payment that the person would receive for such period as he could actuarially

have been expected to remain unemployed.

This scheme, unlike most palliatives proposed, would actually promote work by lowering the cost of marginal labour; it could be tailored so that no fiscal cost would be expected; and it would help those who had suffered most from the recession and who might otherwise find it most difficult, for no good reason, to find work.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**ANTHONY CLUNIES ROSS,**  
Department of Economics,  
University of Strathclyde,  
Curran Building,  
100 Cathedral Street,  
Glasgow.  
February 7.

*From Mr H. W. Haslam*

Sir, The Dean of St Paul's asks whether we need a successor to the "work ethic". Certainly we should be more willing to recognise that fulfilment may be sought and obtained in other activities besides paid employment, but let it not be imagined that high unemployment must be accepted and tolerated as being unavoidable.

We have high unemployment now not because all our needs that can be satisfied by human effort are being met (poverty and deprivation abound) but because, as a society, we have failed to devise ways of satisfying these needs on terms that are mutually acceptable to us as workers and consumers.

Employed and unemployed alike (though especially the former), we value our own capability for work too highly in relation to that of others and we set our expectations too high.

Dr Billy Graham has been quoted as saying that high unemployment is the result of greed and the truth of this simple statement is unescapable. Unemployment may thus be seen in part as a moral issue, a question of values, and it therefore falls very much within the province of the church and its teaching.

Politicians can have some influence on the level of unemployment by helping to fashion the structure of society so that greed works to create employment and prosperity rather than to diminish them, but there are limits to how much they can control the values that each of us sets on his own work and that of other people.

The level of unemployment is ultimately determined not by the actions of governments but by the decisions made individually by every one of us.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**HENRY HASLAM,**  
The Vineyard,  
High Street,  
Much Hadham,  
Hertfordshire.  
February 9.

### Non-unionism at GCHQ

*From Mr G. C. Hampson*

Sir, For how much longer are we to be assailed by the assertion that "everyone has the right to belong to a trade union"? Surely it is common knowledge that this "right" does not extend to members of the Armed Forces or to the police and the reason for this is obvious.

It is easy to imagine the chaos that would ensue if a member of these forces refused to obey the orders of his commanding officer if his union told him not to.

In other places where national security is at risk, such as GCHQ, a comparable situation arises. No doubt the Bishop of Gloucester is right (February 8) when he says that for the vast majority of the employees at GCHQ membership of a trade union does not imply that they are politically subversive, let alone a security risk, but in such a sensitive situation it is surely imprudent to allow of there being any chance of divided loyalties.

Reverend disruptions at Cheltenham have demonstrated that there has been divided loyalty, and though the consequences to date may not have been very serious the Government would surely be failing

in its duty if it did not take steps to eliminate the risk.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**G. C. HAMPSON,**  
Broad Oaks,  
16 Monks' Well,  
Waverley,  
Farnham, Surrey.

*From Sir Arthur de la Mare*

Sir, In his article, "What price loyalty in this market?" (February 7), Mr Robin Cook, Labour MP, waxes indignant at the trammels which the Government seek to put on the staff of GCHQ. "Several thousand citizens", he declaims, "are to be forced to surrender their civil and legal rights to free association".

Good robust stuff, and I am sure that your readers would like more of it. So, for his next act, will Mr Cook please inveigh against the closed shop, by which many more thousands of citizens are blackmailed into surrendering their civil and legal rights not to join a trades union?

*Yours sincerely,*  
**ARTHUR DE LA MARE,**  
The Birches,  
33 Cranlow Road,  
Walton-on-Thames,  
Surrey.

### Countryside heritage

*From Mr John Burton*

Sir, Who created this country heritage that so concerns Lord Melchett and others (February 6)? Arthur Young, describing Lord Melchett's area of north Norfolk in 1788, wrote:

All the country from Holkham to Houghton was a wild sheep-walk before the spirit of improvement seized the inhabitants. . . instead of boundless waste, and unimproved wastes, the country is all cut into inclosures.

Am I the only person exasperated by the hyperbole of the would-be conservationists with their emotive description of "hedgerows hundreds of years old"? Some few hedgerows may be, but the majority are of more recent date, as others testify.

I note that "wild" strips of hedgerow have been razed to the ground. This suggests that they have not been uprooted and destroyed and will presumably rise

again, although it may be considered a drastic way to cope with neglected husbandry.

Walkers will appreciate the clearance of the wild roses and brambles from the footpath. And who is to say that a stretch of disused railway line should be allowed to revert to a wild, overgrown state, harbouring noxious plants, rather than be cleared for cultivation? At least the latter compensates slightly for the loss of agricultural land taken for development elsewhere.

The countryside is the farmer's workplace and he should be allowed the same privacy within his boundaries as you, Sir, to alter the partitions in your office.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**JOHN BURTON,**  
16 St John's Road,  
Queen's Park,  
Chester.  
February 6.

between 1978/79 and 1983/84 Norwich City Council's increase in spending relative to target was 3.4 per cent below the national average, according to the Government's own figures.

Mr Courts's suggestion, that in every part of the country local government expenditure should be at the same level, is extremely questionable. Local government is about local difference; we are not a mathematically uniform country. Different local authorities have different problems and different views of how they should be tackled.

The Conservative controlled Association of District Councils and Association of County Councils come out strongly against the rates Bill, not, as Mr Courts believes, because they fail to understand the

They understand that local democracy is important. They understand that the rates Bill will totally confuse local accountabilities. They understand that local councillors will no longer be responsible for failing to respond to local needs and to the wishes of local electors.

They understand that people are looking to the Government to sort out the shambles into which they have allowed local government finance to fall. They understand that there are no macroeconomic arguments which would justify the Government in taking these powers and that the taking of these powers is a constitutional issue.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**PATRICIA HOLLIS, Leader.**

## Giving Icelandic dogs a bad name

*From the Ambassador of Iceland*

Sir, Lately the British media, both press and television, have been somewhat preoccupied with a problem of cruelty against dogs which mistakenly has been reported to exist in Iceland. The confusion in this matter arose initially because of a municipal regulation which, since 1924, has prohibited the keeping of dogs within the Reykjavik city limits because of a disease which then existed.

It should be noted, however, that the communities adjacent to Reykjavik allow dogs, and the dog ban in Reykjavik has in fact not been strictly enforced. At present the Mayor of Reykjavik is considering proposals which will be put to the city council and, if accepted, would lift the ban (if certain conditions, e.g. veterinary inspections, dog licences etc, are met).

It will remain to be seen if the council agrees and whether, in fact, the majority of the population of Reykjavik want to have dogs in their city. Whatever the outcome, I would think it a fair comment to say that Icelanders resemble Britons in their love for dogs and other pets.

Totally unrelated to this issue is the case of a mad dog which had bitten four people last September and whose picture appeared in a daily newspaper and on *Sixty Minutes* on television. The police, who are normally unflappable, were called in and had to kill the dog on the spot to avoid further injury.

This incident was reported in the Icelandic press last September and when it finds its way into the foreign media today it is erroneously considered to have something to do with the dog ban.

The bad image which Iceland has received because of this is wholly unjustified and I would, therefore, greatly appreciate it if these facts could be brought to the attention of your readers.

*Yours sincerely,*  
**ENAR BENEDIKTSSON,**  
Embassy of Iceland,  
1 Eaton Terrace, SW1.  
February 6.

## Welsh plant research

*From Mr Hanning Philipps*

Sir, As a son of the late Lord Milford, co-founder with Sir George Stapledon of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, I strongly support the letter from a distinguished group of members of Cymmodorion, entitled "Plea to preserve plant research", which appeared in your issue of January 10.

Set up in 1919 with the aim of making this country more self-sufficient in food by improving the productivity of Welsh hill farming, the work of this institution was amply vindicated in the 1939-45 war. Since, in any future conventional war, starvation must still be our greatest threat, the importance of the research carried on at Aberystwyth remains undiminished.

While the main emphasis of the plant-breeding station's work has throughout been geared to the improvement of Welsh farming, from my own experience overseas I can speak of the great impact it has had, particularly in such far-off countries as New Zealand, Australia and even the United States, in all of which similar stations have subsequently been set up, based on the Aberystwyth pattern. And with all of these close ties in research and even interchange of staff have been maintained.

So important has been much of the research carried out at Aberystwyth that in 1976, as Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, I had the privilege of presenting the Welsh Plant Breeding Station with the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement.

Taking into account the exceptional training the institute provides for students, many of them from the Third World and taking into account its record of service to Welsh farming and even to world farming, I find it difficult to believe that in their search for economies the Welsh Office could not find some less enterprising target to attack.

*Yours faithfully,*  
**HANNING PHILIPPS,**  
Picton Castle,  
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

## Sentences in Malawi

*From Lord Aveybury and Mr Al Dubs MP for Battersea (Labour)*

Sir, Following today's announcement from Malawi (report, February 8) that the death sentences passed on the opposition leader, Orton Chirwa, and his wife, Vera, have been upheld by the National Traditional Court of Appeal, may we appeal through your columns to President Banda to exercise his prerogative of clemency and commute these death sentences?

*Yours faithfully,*  
**AVEYBURY, Chairman,**  
**ALF DUBS, Vice-Chairman,**  
Parliamentary Human Rights Group,  
House of Lords.  
February 7.

## Quicker by Tube?

*From Mr R. L. Kilpatrick*

Sir, Accompanying a front-page article entitled "Space shuttle loses another satellite" (February 7) is a cartoon featuring a spaceman critically assessing the functional competency of his means of conveyance by saying, "It's always quicker to get out and walk".

Hovering clearly in the background is a Saturn-like planet with a ring, suggestively resembling the logo for London Transport. Has he discovered something which we already know?







# THE ARTS

Andrea Chenier tonight, at long last, returns to Covent Garden, with José Carreras in the title role. Interview by John Higgins.

## No time to count the calories

For the past fortnight José Carreras has been singing in *Bohème* at Covent Garden. "The best Rodolfo we have" was the response of one critic, and certainly it is a part which Puccini might have tailored specially for him. But Rodolfo has now passed to Veriano Luchetti while Carreras remains in Paris, operatically speaking, and tonight tackles the title role of *Andrea Chenier*.

Giordano's best-known opera sat in the repertoire at Sadler's Wells during the days of the Craig-Glossop partnership there. It is half a century, though, since it has been heard at Covent Garden. The absence is a little strange because few major Italian tenors, from Caruso and Gigli onwards, would have thought their careers complete without singing Chenier. And the same applies to a number of non-Italians, including Thill and now Carreras.

Chenier comes after a year in which Carreras has been tackling some of the heavier roles of the Italian tenor repertoire for the first time on stage. There was Calaf in the Vienna State Opera's *Turandot* in midsummer; nobody much liked the production but Carreras's performance was reckoned a success. Soon after came his first Manno outside the recording studios in a revival of *Il pirata* at Covent Garden, one of the better evenings of the disappointing season, in which the tenor had clearly worked hard at the role and deserved his triumph. There has also been Alvaro in *La forza del destino* at La Scala as well as at the Met in New York.

Does Carreras, who was 37 in December and has so far been

considered as a lyric tenor despite excursions into operas like *Aida* at the Salzburg Festival, see this as a turning-point in his career? "No, I still think of myself as that lyric tenor, but one with dark colouring in the voice. The real reason for Calaf, Manno, Luchetti and Chenier is that I need the constant stimulus of new roles. My mentality and temperament have always demanded both excitement and something fresh. A year without at least one major addition to my repertoire would be a year wasted."

"But I'm not sure that I agree with this classification of 'heavy roles'. Take Alvaro. Often he has to contend with no more than a pizzicato in the orchestra. Rodolfo in *Bohème*, generally reckoned a purely lyric part, in Act III needs far more vocal power than Alvaro, and much the same could be said of Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. It would be more accurate to say that there are certain operas one should not sing too often. It's important to rotate the appearances and then turn to something quite different. A German tenor, after performing in Wagner, will make sure he does a few Tannhairs; I lighten my voice by going back to Donizetti."

Carreras, whose technique is exemplary and who is clearly able to pace his own development, is probably alone among the world's leading tenors in never having had a professional singing teacher. The man who first helped him is now 74, and still lives in Barcelona, Carreras's birthplace; he retains his amateur status and the confidence of his own star pupil. "Every time I go home I see

him for advice on my voice and on what I should do next. Never have I felt the need to go to anyone else."

The other person who furthered the Carreras career was Montserrat Caballé's brother, Carlos, who heard him entirely by chance when he was auditioning at the Liceu in Barcelona. Carreras at that time was a chemistry student, but with the help of Carlos Caballé got his first major part, Ismaele in Verdi's *Nabucco*. A little later he was singing opposite sister Montserrat in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Could he have been lost to chemistry for ever without the Caballé family? "They both gave me great moral and professional support. I just think it would have needed perhaps another five years to get started."

Surprisingly, it took Carreras, who has shown plenty of sympathy for the French repertoire, some time to get around to his namesake José in *Carmen*. His recording of the part, under Karajan, released last autumn, has won considerable acclaim. Before making the set he had sung José in only two productions, one in Zurich and the other in Madrid. Had he deliberately tried Bizet first out of the glare of the major operatic circuit?

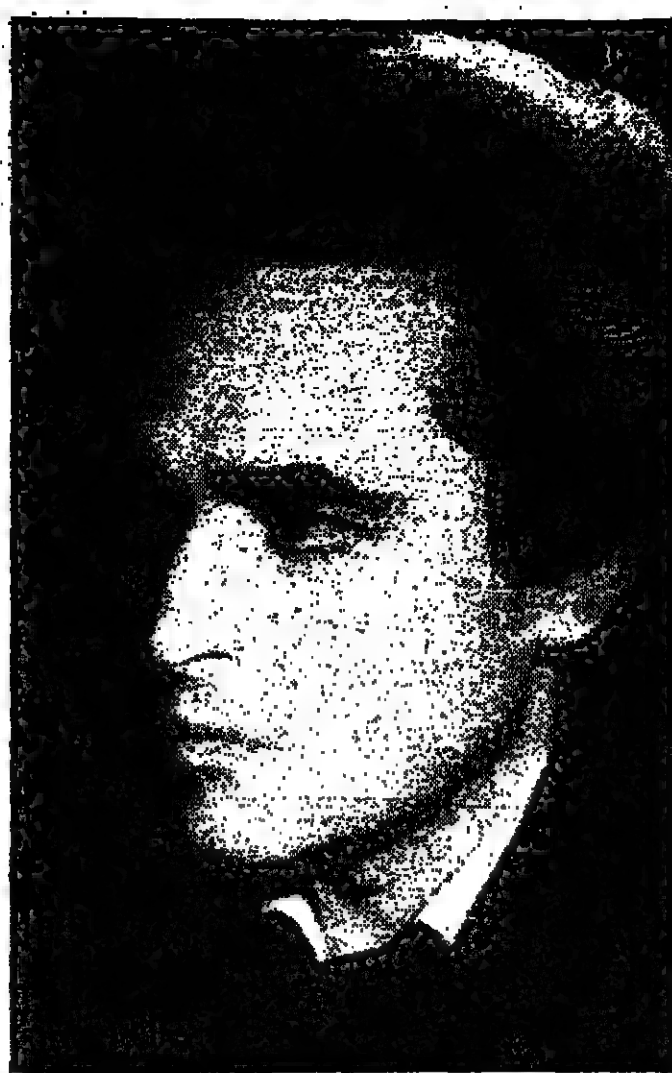
"No, I realize that some of my colleagues prefer to test a new part in a small opera house. That's never been my approach. If I decide to take on a role then I'm quite happy to sing it for the first time in a major international house. It just happened that the offers from Zurich and Madrid came at the moment when I thought it was right for me to tackle José. And possibly what I sang for Karajan was

rather different. From the start Karajan said to me 'With your voice and your personality you must make José a very romantic figure'. So together we tried to create a rather naive character, a boy who is an optimist, who believes right up to the last act that everything will turn out to be all right in the end." That Carreras turned out to be one of the best open sets of 1983.

So far Carreras has not touched the German repertoire either on record, on stage or in recital. The reason, he claims, is purely linguistic. "I have never wanted to be a *papagallo* [parrot] mouthing words I do not understand. Some of my fellow artists are quite happy to sing in languages of which they speak not a word, but that is not for me. Before I sing in German I will have to learn German, and that takes time. One of these days perhaps I will; then I could be a Walther, a Lohengrin or a Max in *Freischütz*. The same applies to Russian. In many ways Leningrad in *Eugene Onegin* would be an ideal role. I've discussed it with Colin [Davis]. Maybe I could do it in English at Covent Garden..."

There are reservations of a different kind about *Otello*, which remains one of the few holes in Carreras's Verdi repertoire, although he is none too keen to return to Radames despite Karajan's luring him into the Salzburg production. "I don't think you should consider taking on *Otello* before you are 40, so I will not be opening the score for another four or five years. At the moment I haven't the right voice, nor have I got the human or artistic maturity."

Carreras is fond of referring to roles like Manno, Calaf and Andrea Chenier as the tenor's



José Carreras as Andrea Chenier

"high calorie" diet. Nothing on the Italian menu comes stuffed with more calories than *Otello*. So, as far as the recording industry is concerned, he will try to lower the richness of the intake a little. A Nemorino (*Elisir*) for Philips, a Pinkerton with Levine, a Duke in *Rigoletto* with Muti (not many calories, perhaps, but punishing

demands on the voice), an unknown Rossini, *Ernani* with Claudio Scimone, and another testing part, the title role in Donizetti's *Polio*. Enough calories for the time being.

● Carreras gives a recital of popular song at the Barbican on May 5.

## Theatre Pent up emotions

Tom and Viv  
Royal Court

As with his piece on Lee Harvey Oswald, Michael Hastings's *Tom and Viv* is a stage biography assembled from the sketchiest source material; by which I do not mean to imply that Mr Hastings is given to perverse choices, but rather that he uses the stage to tackle puzzles inaccessible to formal biography.

As with Oswald, so the life of T. S. Eliot presents a large puzzle — in the shape of a first wife reputed to be mad, who vanished into institutional seclusion and was firmly erased from the public Eliot record.

If the Eliot estate finds fault with Mr Hastings's play, it has only itself to blame for sitting tight on the evidence and allowing rumours to fester. *Tom and Viv* is not a piece of extravagant fiction. Through a chronological series of short, often abruptly cut-off scenes, it follows the events with almost ostentatious attention to surface, at the expense of inner thoughts, often leaving you with the wish that the author had indulged his imagination a bit more.

All the same, a clear psychological outline does emerge, beginning with the young Eliot's besotted attachment to Vivienne Haigh Wood — who simultaneously embodied the patrician British society he wished to exchange for his St Louis heritage and an impulsiveness of temperament which he singularly lacked. "Take the plunge, Tom" is her call throughout; and he is never able to rise to it.

What follows is a latter-day dance of death, supervised by the members of the Haigh Wood family, who would have stopped the marriage had they been able to, but afterwards relied on Eliot to look after the girl whose instability they could hardly bring themselves to face.

So far as Eliot is concerned, the portrait undergoes a most subtle and persuasive transformation. In the early scenes, he figures as a victim: misled, perhaps, by Anglophile snobbery, but utterly powerless to deal with Vivienne's possessive excesses once he escaped from the family bank job and began to take his place in the literary establishment.

The pain comes out chiefly by means of scenic contrast. Here is Vivienne dressed in *travestie* as Crippen's mistress, showing off her husband's Bloomsbury cronies to her disapproving mother (Margaret Tyack, billowing around the salon in Marie Antoinette draperies); come the next morning, and she tells him she



Tom Wilkinson: Eliot's responses marvellously captured

has posted his briefcase down the rubbish chute, as he stands there adjusting his tie as if going out to meet a firing squad.

Eliot's response throughout — marvellously captured by Tom Wilkinson — is to preserve a studied, stoical passivity. He is totally incapable of breaking British decorum so far as to attack her; only at oblique moments, as where she innocently asks if he likes chocolate, does his wrath break out.

As eminence takes its toll, however, it also supplies him with an alibi for absence; and his sheer disappearance from the scene, and the cold-blooded long-range separation and communal decisions, tell their own story. By the end, with Vivienne staunchly defending him, and refusing other help, the sympathies have swung round to her side. This is largely thanks to the work of Julie Covington, whose performance works miracles of surprise and unexpected shafts of generosity.

Max Stafford-Clark's production, which turns Eliot's bawler and umbrella into symbolic emblems and projects the conflicting worlds of the period on Antony McDonald's mansion-backed stage, is a model of expressive discipline.

● The part of Monticelli in the Greenwich production of *The White Devil* is played by David Williams, and not by Charles Kay, as stated in my notice of February 6. My apologies to both artists.

Irving Wardle

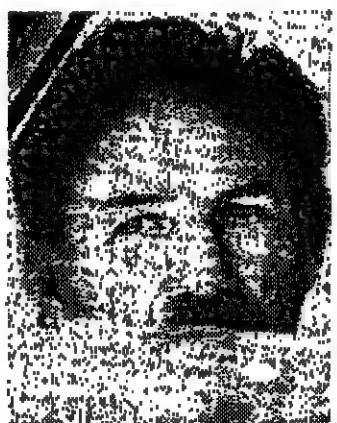
## Cinema

### On the road to a moral hell

Under Fire (15)  
Leicester Square  
Theatre

Star Struck (PG)  
Gate Bloomsbury

"The Outrageous  
Innocence of Luis  
Buñuel"  
National Film Theatre



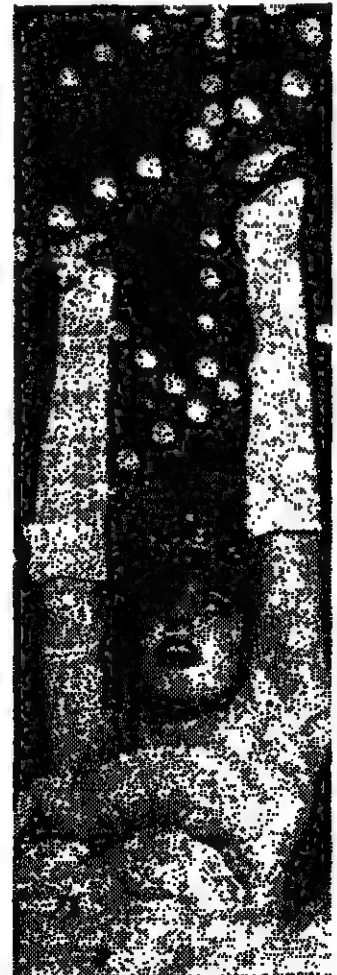
Time takes cover: Gene Hackman on the run in *Under Cover*, and the joyous climax of *Star Struck*, with Jo Kennedy as the 18-year-old former barmaid lowered in triumph on to the stage of the Sydney Opera House

America's buccannering foreign policies and the machinations of the CIA have opened up new fields of drama for film-makers. Costa-Gavras's *Missing* was set in Chile, Stephen Frears's *Sailor* — *Year of the Cat* in Vietnam, Peter Lialanth's *The Uprising* in Nicaragua. Roger Spottiswoode's *Under Fire*, written by Ronald Shelton and Clayton Frohman, is also set in Nicaragua, in the last throes of the Somoza regime.

The recurrent preoccupation of these films with modern political backgrounds — others are Peter Weir's *The Year of Living Dangerously* and Volker Schlöndorff's *Circle of Deceit* — is the role of the neutral reporter, or rather, the impossibility of staying uncommitted at the centre of these bloody bits of history. Here Nick Nolte is the essential voyeur, the photo-reporter. Moving from one trouble spot (Chad) to another, he finds himself with the same travelling circus of compatriots, a *Time* features man (Gene Hackman), a radio commentator (Joanna Cassidy) and an ubiquitous mercenary (Ed Harris). A more metaphorical representative of the American position is the advertising man dedicated to the job of giving a more flattering public image to Somoza and his rotting despotism.

In the format of a fast-moving and gripping adventure story, the film also presents a complex moral drama, in which the hero's undirected good intentions lead him to a series of betrayals: he betrays his friend, the revolutionaries with whom he discovers sympathy, even his profession. The plot offers a nice irony: while a news photograph that he takes effects political good, his honest reportage produces only destruction.

In conformity with Hollywood traditions, political events are seen from the viewpoint of the personal drama (but how, in reality, do we ever view politics in which we are actually involved, but from the individual position?). The Latin-American situation is inevitably simplified and fictionalized; but it is not trivialized or shirked. While the film faces the possibility that right or left, Somoza or Sandinista, may in the end only prove alternative tyrannies, it does unequivocally bring the American public some home truths about the dubious alliances that can result from the crusade against the spread of communism. The Somoza firing party in the end looks a lot worse than the Sandinista fires. The film is a valuable complement to Deborah Shaffer and Tom Sigel's remarkable documentary *Nicaragua: Report*



cinemas. Shooting on the spot, Shaffer and Sigel showed the support that the United States is still giving to the revitalized Somoza National Guard in their guerrilla war against Sandinista Nicaragua. Seeing these two films together can only stimulate a healthy spirit of enquiry in American audiences; and that is not a bad thing for movies to achieve.

The characters are well rounded: aside from the principals, René Enríquez's portrait of Somoza stands out. The dictator is no melodrama despot, but a petty, pompous, self-seeking, nasty little man, hooked on ancestor worship and Miss Panama.

As director, Roger Spottiswoode's previous films have been a Canadian teenage horror, *Terror Train*, which was brighter and less sleazy than the rest, and a salvage job, *The Pursuit of*

## Television Promise of doom

throats. There was certainly room for mutual dislike: Dr Rackett has a soul which is rotting away, according to a farmhand, and the dreadful grandmother spends most of her time talking about corpses, maggots and her missing leg. Kenneth Branagh, as Jack, has the right mixture of aggression and reserve, and the Australian cast masterfully lacked that theatrical masculinity which was so prominent a feature of *The Thorn Birds*. As a result, this was a better adaption than might have been expected: it

the Boy in the Bush (Channel 4 began with a young Englishman being dispatched to Australia in order to "strengthen his character" — an arguable decision, and one which will no doubt have fatal consequences. For some reason, there always are fatal consequences in television drama. Although this series has been adapted from a novel by D. H. Lawrence, it was hard to believe that its script bore much resemblance to the original dialogue; but the combination of a rather taciturn Englishman and a sultry female cousin — she has "a great sense of fun but no tact", which might be the definition of a Lawrence heroine — has possibilities.

The first episode (three to come) was necessarily involved in introducing the characters, most of whom seemed immediately to be at each others'

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# Imperial poised to expand its empire

By Jonathan Clare

The Imperial Group expects to make acquisitions among embryonic industries which are completely unrelated to its traditional core businesses of tobacco, brewing foods and restaurants.

Mr Geoffrey Kent, who has chaired the company for the last two-and-a-half years and seen its return to blue-chip status, said yesterday that the operating subsidiaries had been asked to suggest possible acquisitions both in their own fields and elsewhere. But he added that he did not expect Imps to make a "significant" acquisition during the current year and that investment in unrelated industries would be limited.

He also said that Courage Imps' brewing subsidiary, had not asked if it could make an offer for Tollemache & Cobbold, the unquoted East Anglian brewery.

Imps' plans for future growth follow a spalling set of results with profits of £19.3m pretax against £14.3m. The stem from stable cigarette sales, good brewing results and signs of improvement at

Howard Johnson, the troubled American motel and restaurant chain.

Mr Kent said the BAT Industries' partial withdrawal from the British cigarette market, announced last week, would help Imps and others in the industry, but it was unclear by how much.

Mr Kent said "One of the main BAT marketing strategies since 1978 has been discounting, with the result that margins for the industry have been depressed. If its distributor now abandons that strategy, it could benefit the industry as a whole."

The tobacco market has been stable for the last 15 months - the first real stability for seven years - after a small duty increase in the last Budget and higher discretionary spending.

Courage's market share of 9 per cent is the highest since its acquisition in 1972, largely through the success of Hoffmeister Lager, Courage Best Bitter and take-home sales.

This year Courage will have an unusually high level of capital spending to upgrade many of its pubs - a strategy now adopted by most of the big

brewers. The brewing division, which made £71.6m against £58.5m, was also helped by the new Reading brewery where profits are running above the original budget.

The final dividend has been increased by 12.2 per cent and is seen as a signal of further steady growth in both profits and dividends. The shares rose 2p to 154p. But Mr Kent admitted that Hofo would take time to turn round to the point "where it is making the returns I want."

## Investment trusts

It is almost eight years since Britain's investment trust companies realized that they really had to take some individual and concerted action to counter their low status on the stock market, which was reflected in shares selling at a discount of a quarter or more on the balance sheet net asset values of their portfolios. Today, the average discount is around 23 per cent at the lower end of the recent range, writes Graham Searjeant.

Given the enormous amount of effort expended in the meantime, City cynics may take a less than excited view about the prospects for the latest effort of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, representing some £13 billion of funds. It is mounting a £650,000 advertising and public relations effort through Geers Gross West.

The very nature of this campaign, a generic one showing the achievements of investment companies as a whole, demonstrates the sector's big problem. Companies cannot market their shares like the unit trusts managers do or advertise much more than formal accounting statements of their achievements.

Stock market investment also remains a complexity to those who do not want to take a day-to-day interest in their investment and for them, unit trusts seem a lot less bother.

The new campaign will try to counter this head on. But, while it may be hard to tackle the intrinsic marketing problems, there is no doubt that the companies have plenty to com-

pete with investment vehicles. Last year, for instance, international spread helped the companies to a 29.6 per cent average rise in net asset value compared with a 23 per cent average rise for the British stock market. This is, on the whole, a slightly better performance than unit trusts.

Of the companies reporting yesterday, both Morgan Grenfell's Anglo-American Securities and Baring's Tribune Investment Trust fared even better with gains of more than a third. This means that those who do buy are, on the whole, buying good value for money. An investor looking for yield, for instance, can find what he wants on a better class of portfolio, thanks to the discount.

The many developments of recent years may not have raised status, but have sharpened profitable takeovers. And if high streets are ever lined with investment shops, the trust companies' time will have come.

Stock market report, page 20

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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100
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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1983/84	Low Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

### Enter a third force in money broking

A third force in international money broking, dominated by the two London-based firms, Mercantile House and Exco International, is rising from the ashes of the old Charles Fulton empire that collapsed at the beginning of 1982. Quietly, and with the minimum of fuss, a deal has been struck in New York that turns Charles Fulton (UK), into the third largest money brokers in America and is the first step in a dynamic young team's attempt to re-create a worldwide broking operation.

On January 5 the Charles Fulton team successfully completed 18 months of negotiations to take over Maybon, Nugent and Godsell, New York's largest traders in US government stocks. The deal was difficult to conclude because Exco International held 25 per cent. Working for the Fulton team was the fact that the young dealers in Maybon wanted to pull out, not only from Exco but from the control of the "old men" running the American company.

Mr Ron Valance, the finance director at Charles Fulton, refused to disclose how much was paid (in the "tens of millions of pounds") but did say that the dealers at Maybon now own a significant slice of the equity of the combined group. A diversification into financial services is the next stage.

The story began in March 1982 when Charles Fulton started losing money in some of its operations. It was then owned by Gill & Duffus, the commodity dealers, with 44 per cent, some funds in the Robert Fleming stable which held 11 per cent, and chief executive Mr Stephen O'Brien. An attempted £7m management buy-out failed because Gill & Duffus insisted on a quick sale. Mercantile House's £6.5m cash offer was accepted. Mercantile was ruthless in making the business conform to its thinking.

By May 1982 Mercantile was finding it increasingly difficult to hold the operation together. Staff were leaving "in droves" or demanding the right to buy themselves out. The first division to gain its freedom was Mr Robin Packshaw's for £700,000. The Middle-East operation, where local Arab interests had a stake, was bought out. In July 1982 Mr Bob Phelan and his team of dealers bought out the Hongkong, Singapore and Malaysian businesses. Mercantile had to let go the profitable parts of Charles Fulton for a total £5.5m, a million less than they paid for the whole group. Mercantile however had succeeded in insuring that the departed divisions were separate and unlikely to come together into a "new" Charles Fulton to compete with Mercantile.

Yet in 18 months the business and dealers have regrouped. The company now has direct lines to all the British local authorities, deals for two of the clearers and has an impressive corporate client list that include the leading insurance companies, industrial groups and building societies.

The age of those involved is material. Mr Valance, in his late thirties, and Mr Packshaw are considered the old men of the firm. The rest are in their twenties and early thirties. They begin work at 7am and have a strong will to succeed.

"We were a long way behind the two majors and we had to begin closing that gap. This deal in New York successfully does that," Mr Valance believes. The next step is to re-establish a close trading link with Mr Phelan's Far East group, also trading under the Charles Fulton banner.

"They have just negotiated an agreement with the major money brokers in Japan, Yemani, and have now a stronger operation than existed before Mercantile. But that situation is as delicate as the New York deal and could take just as long."

Charles Fulton (UK) needed backers to begin and they materialized in the shape of Wedd, Durlacher Mordant, the premier stock jobbers. Wedd now holds about 30 per cent. "This is a people business and dependent on the expertise of its staff, so they have to have the majority interest," Mr Valance said.

A new parent company is being established, Charles Fulton International, which, the London team hope, will also attract the European, predominantly Swiss and Luxembourg, operations back into the fold.

"We paid for the US deal from our own resources - 18 months of dealing profits - and we go for profits, not turnover. We want to keep the margins as high as we can for as long as we can; in other words a very tight rein on costs while we expand."

And next? "We move into financial services staying as close to our broking expertise as we can. We cannot get into the area of conflicts of interest with our clients, particularly the banks. So we are spending time identifying those areas where our clients do not provide a service. It's a tricky business."

The New York business has been renamed Prebon Money Brokers Inc, specializing in Federal funds, currency deposits and foreign exchange broking. Mr Valance admits to eyeing a New York stockbroker but is otherwise secretive. "We have to have a world-wide business established as quickly as we can".

### Moving forward in rule-book chains

Murmurings of discontent are beginning to filter through to the Stock Exchange Council over rules governing the trading practices of the new international dealing subsidiaries (IDS) of member firms.

Of the six major partnerships to evolve so far from the changing practices of the Stock Exchange, all but two are setting up their own international dealers and pumping in substantial amounts of cash. Operations begin formally on April 1 and for the first time British firms should have a real chance of competing successfully with the major Japanese and American brokerage houses for British institutional overseas business. That business is worth in commissions lost to the London market, an estimated £40m a year.

The major blot is against the rule that prohibits IDS from dealing in British stocks abroad, in particular American Depository Receipts (ADRs) of British blue chip companies, which have become a booming success.

The problem is a difficult one for the council. IDS can deal as principals, or market makers, and as agents executing the order, so they become the first dual capacity firms in London. As they will not be charging a minimum fixed rate of commission, IDS will be working models of the Stock Exchange that is expected ultimately to emerge from the council's restructuring of the rule book.

While single capacity, the split between market making jobbers and agent brokers, last brokers fear they will lose out if IDS are allowed to deal in British equities for overseas clients.

## Loan ruling may force BAe to abandon Airbus project

By Our Financial Staff

British Aerospace may be forced to pull out of the Airbus consortium if the Government refuses to give it all the cheap cash it wants to pay off its part in the new A320 version of the Airbus.

The City expects the Government will tell British Aerospace that it will have to go to the private sector to raise half the £437m it needs. This would mean it would be faced with raising expensive cash that it can ill afford and which institutional investors may be reluctant to risk, instead of the cheap loan that the Government could offer. Aerospace is putting £200m of its own resources towards the £640m share it has to put into the project.

A decision is expected soon - probably next week - and some City sources believe that the Government has already spelt

out to British Aerospace the options which are available.

The company's directors were not available yesterday, but the chairman, Sir Austin Pearce, threatened before Christmas to pull out of the A320 deal unless he received government backing.

Lord Rockley of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank which brought British Aerospace back to the private sector three years ago, said: "As far as we are concerned the Government and the company are still talking. Your guess is as good as mine as to when this matter will be resolved."

However, he preferred not to comment on whether the company had put out feelers in the City to see whether £200m or more could be raised and he said that it would be wrong for *The Times* to make any assumptions.

The Department of Trade

and Industry said that the possibility of raising private cash was an option that had been considered and added that it was normal for the Government to provide only 50 per cent of "launch aid" for such projects.

Rolls-Royce has received only 50 per cent aid for a new engine which could be used to power the A320.

The likelihood of British Aerospace having to put up half the cash it needs has already been reflected in the share price, now 217p compared with a high of 258p.

One view expressed strongly in the City yesterday was that it would be better if the Government did only offer half the cash British Aerospace wants, encouraging the company to put out of the project. One analyst said: "If they walk away from this deal it would be a sound commercial decision

which will win them a lot of friends."

If British Aerospace opted to raise the cash it could try a rights issue which would be unpopular with shareholders or it could make a loan agreement with City backers which would be expensive. One possibility is that a private sector loan could have a profit sharing element built into it so that those who put up the money would shoulder some of the risk. But it is difficult to identify many backers who would accept such terms.

British Aerospace does have £550m bank facilities but has already said they are committed.

The big worry for potential private sector backers is that very few manufacturers have made money out of large jetliner programmes. Forecasts about the potential market have never been right and backers for A320 are looking 10 years ahead.

## Dollar steadies

The dollar fell sharply in New York and the Far East overnight on Wednesday, before steadying yesterday in Europe. At one stage, it sank to DM 2.7270, before closing in London at DM 2.7340, 1.85 pence less than the day before.

Dealers said confidence in the US currency was fading following the strictures of Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, earlier this week on America's overdependence on foreign capital. The pound finished trading in London just over a cent up at \$1.4230.

The FT Index closed at 801.3 yesterday, a fall of 3.7 points.

### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 801.3 down 3.7  
FT 100s 82.37 unchanged  
FT All Shares 481.26 down 4.88

Batavians 23.513  
Dutchman USM Leaders Index 102.45 down 0.9  
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average 1159.13 up 2.83

Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,001.54 down 98.05  
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index 1,090.08 down 11.29

### CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling \$1.4230 up 1.05 cents  
DM 2.7340 down 0.0185  
DM 3.88 down 0.0050  
FF 11.9575 up 0.0075  
Yen 382.75 up 1.75

Dollar Index 129.8 down 0.6  
DM 2.7340 down 0.0185  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.4175  
Dollar DM 2.7395

INTERNATIONAL  
ECU £0.577357  
SDR £0.734512

### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 9  
Finance houses base rate 9½  
Discount market loans week fixed 9½-9  
3 month interbank 9½-9¾

Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 9½-9¾  
3 month DM 5½-5¾  
3 month Fr 15½-15¾

US rates  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9½  
Treasury long bond 101-101½

### GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$383.80 pm \$383.00  
Close \$382.25-383.75 (£269.25-280.75)

New York latest: \$378.75  
Kruggerand (per coin): \$394.50-396 (£277.25-278.25)  
Sovereigns (new): \$90.91 (£63.25-64)  
\*Excludes VAT



"Tiny" Rowland: dreaming of Harrods

## Lonrho reports 50% rise in profits

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho, the international trading group, yesterday reported a 50 per cent increase in pretax profits to £113.2m on a turnover barely changed at £2.2 billion.

The final dividend is lifted 1p to 6p but the total for the year to September 30 remains unchanged at 9p. Lonrho is paying a special 1p dividend on April 5 and says it is for the current year.

In a statement accompanying the figures, Lonrho, headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, said that there had been a 78 per cent increase in earnings from the United Kingdom, that cash in the bank totalled £109m and that trading in the past five months had been good enough for him to feel confident that profits would rise again this year.

The shares added 2p to 130p before closing at 129p, near the year's best.

But amid the confident statements, some analysts gave a warning that these milestones had been seen before: the dividend had not been lifted

despite a 103 per cent increase in attributable profits, and the pretax profit levels had been reached in 1981 and were below the £119m record of 1980.

Lonrho refuses to detail the individual contributions from its seven trading divisions. Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said: "We have now finished rationalizing the business. Of the loss-makers we have sold Hadfields (the steel company) to the Government, we closed the Sunday Standard newspaper and we have turned around the motor distributors Dutton Forshaw."

Still unreconciled is the group's near 30 per cent shareholding in the House of Fraser Stores group, with which it has had an acrimonious relationship for most of the six years the stake has been held.

Recent speculation has suggested that Lonrho may sell its stake to a bidder of the House of Fraser and then buy back the Harrods flagship on which Mr Rowland has set his sights. Mr Spicer said: "We're not saying anything about that."

## Assets of Brick put at £300m

By Jeremy Warner

The net assets of London Brick are worth £300m or 215p a share, Mr Jeremy Rowe, the chairman, disclosed yesterday as part of the company's campaign against an unwanted £212m takeover bid from Hanson Trust.

The disclosure was forced out of London Brick after two days of heated argument with the Takeover Panel, and Hanson Trust regards the release of the asset revaluation at this stage of the takeover battle as a tactical victory.

London Brick had been hoping to hold the valuation, a key part of its defence, in reserve, with a forecast of dividends for this year for use if Hanson once more raised its bid.

But the Panel persuaded London Brick to issue the information earlier than planned.

London Brick's shares closed on the stock market 2p higher at 155p. This compares with Hanson's bid of 145p a share in cash.

Hanson claimed that if the new valuation were incorporated in the company's balance sheet, it could significantly harm future years profits and undermine the forecast of profits of £36m that the company has already made for this year because of extra depreciation and charges.

But London Brick said the valuation would not be put into the balance sheet, and that in any case the effect on profits would be minimal.

## Fisons pays \$50m for US foothold

By Our Financial Staff

Fisons, the pharmaceutical concern, yesterday made its first purchase of an American equipment company. The group paid \$50m (about £35m) for net assets and goodwill of Seimed International and its operating company, Curtin Matheson Scientific Inc.

Fisons paid cash for the company, a subsidiary of Coulter Electronics Inc., a US group, by placing almost five million new shares in the London market yesterday at 72½p a share. Fisons price in the market eased 18p to 744p.

Curtin Matheson is a leading distributor to the \$2 billion US health care market supplying a wide range of clinical laboratory products, instruments and diagnostic agents. Under the agreement, Curtin remains exclusive US distributor of most Coulter products.

Curtin Matheson's pre-tax profits for the 12 months to the end of last March were \$6.5m on sales of \$220m. Profits this year are likely to run at about £10m.

The group has \$35m of debt which Fisons is taking on to the balance sheet, lifting its gearing from zero to between 10 and 12 per cent.

Although it is a significant purchase, close observers of the company say this is not the major acquisition which has been expected for some time.

Walter Lawrence is buying Tricom Supplies, a builders' and plumbers' merchant, from Combined Technology Corporation for £2.5m.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Competition for \$150m Soviet loan

European and Japanese banks are competing to lead to the Soviet Union. Banks, including Lloyds Bank International, are expected to announce today how much the £150m loan is over-subscribed.

Sixteen banks had offered by Wednesday \$160m but that figure had been "very comfortably" beaten yesterday. The success of the loan is all the more remarkable because of the absence of American banks, which have been priced out by the high US interest rates.

The Russians had refused to price part of the loan over the US prime rate. They spent three months negotiating ½ per cent point over the London interbank rate, although lenders' pressure for high fees and a stricter repayment schedule have effectively raised it to ¾ over Libor.

The loan signals the re-opening of markets for good Comecon risks and some banks believe that Czechoslovakia may now be tempted to follow with an offering of its own.

Señor Humberto Calderon Berti, president of the state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, had resigned and has been replaced by Señor Brigido Natera, a veteran oil industrialist.

STC telecommunications and Texaco Corporation of the United States have formed a joint company to market cable television systems products in Britain.

Mr Michael Posner, the former chairman of the Social Science Research Council, is to become economics director of

### WALL STREET

## Further falls in share prices

New York - Share prices opened sharply and broadly lower in active trading on Wall Street yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 3.98 to 1,132.32.

Analysts expect the heavy selling which erupted late on Wednesday to continue.

Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, and Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, both warned on Wednesday the US could slip into a recession if the Government does not cut the Federal budget deficit.

## Study warns against low-value specialization

The United Kingdom is near, if not at, a moment of truth in respect of its relative economic decline, according to a 260-page study on structural adjustment in British industry released by the International Labour Organization yesterday.

It calls for leadership from government to help industry in long-range planning and innovation, particularly in new technologies, and increased technical education and training.

Britain's virtual specialization in low-value products will, the study says, "increasingly put it into competition with low-wage but increasingly productive Third World countries."

In textiles, for example, Britain opted for the mass-market strategy, tackling developing countries' imports head-on, while West Germany, Swedish and Swiss specialized in the up-market end of the

## French coal losses soar

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The French state-owned coal industry has followed the National Coal Board and announced an increase in losses with a warning of pit closures and job losses.

The French coal industry last year lost Fr750m (£63m), up from Fr151m in 1982. However, losses from its chemicals operation mean that losses of the group, Charbonnages de France, last year could total Fr2.1 billion.

The losses have been announced before a meeting between the group's management and unions, at which coal output targets for this year will be set and job losses discussed.

## Study warns against low-value specialization

wellbeing is resolving the problem of the "two cultures". The "them and us" attitudes still prevailing.

Working class cultures - "class solidarity coupled with an inveterate hostility towards the rest of society" - was confronted by the public school caste and "differences perpetuated through distinctions between wage earners and salaried staff."

The study by Miss Margaret Sharp, Mr Geoffrey Shepherd, both of Sussex European Research Centre and Mr David Marsden of the London School of Economics, says the managerial culture, derived essentially from the aristocratic values of the 18th century, still places low valuation on technological studies with the result that most of those in positions of responsibility in industry, the Civil Service and the City are "gifted amateurs"...

Industry's main problems, the study stresses, lie in the micro-economic adjustment process: failure to update design, failure to grasp the importance of science and technology to competitiveness and failure to take a long view of the future.

Britain today, it points out, puts proportionately fewer young people through vocational training or higher education than any other country in the industrialized world.

While the study sees signs that the fiercely competitive climate of the last decade is beginning to jog industry in the right direction, more radical changes will be needed in the

## US steel action to cut imports

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US steel industry is to file today the first of a series of complaints over unfair trade, to press its case for global restraints on steel imports, which is being resisted by governments in Europe and the Third World.

Mr David Roderick, chairman of US steel, said up to five new cases would be filed with the Commerce Department, against subsidized imports from Australia, Finland, Sweden and a large number of Third World countries, many of them deeply in debt.

The new cases are seen as the opening round in the domestic industry's campaign to cut imports from Europe and the Third World to 15 per cent of the US market, down sharply from the present level of about 22 per cent.

Britain, the EEC and Third World governments have warned the Reagan Administration that additional new restraints on their steel exports could trigger a trade war.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Industry and Trade, told this to members of the Administration on his first official visit to Washington. US steel companies are already protected from foreign competition by quotas negotiated against Japanese imports and imports from the EEC.

However, the US Administration wants the steel industry to drop its campaign urging Congress to pass protectionist legislation limiting steel imports.

Mr Lionel Olmer, Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, said: "This Administration remains ada-



## Goode Durrant & Murray

Group plc

Chairman Lionel Robinson reports on the results to 31st October, 1983

	1983	1982
Turnover	£64,521,000	£61,487,000
Profit before tax	£2,623,000	£2,767,000
Earnings per share	6.1p	7.6p
Dividend	1.25p	1p
Net assets per ordinary share	57.6p	51.1p
Shareholders' funds	£14,338,000	£12,738,000

### NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

## Esso Overseas Finance N.V.

(now EXXON FINANCE N.V.)

8% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of March 15, 1971, providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$2,560,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on March 15, 1984 through operation of the Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the following serial numbers:

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due March 15, 1984 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, New York 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London, Paris and Zurich; Credito Romagnolo S.p.A. in Milan and Rome; Bank Mees & Hope N.V. in Amsterdam; and Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgise in Luxembourg. Coupons due March 15, 1984 should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

On and after March 15, 1984 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption.

ESSO OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V.

### NOTICE

The following Debentures previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment:

1197	2845	8885	12228	12819	13037	14482	15118	21463	21703	28534	34619	38370	41803	44118
1203	3678	10337	12245	13002	13738	14899	15103	21406	21807	30118	34625	38670	42108	48797
1279	3680	10238	12777	13008	13045	15103	19131	21679	22002	30119	37953	38728	42117	48802
1697	2846	10349	12872	13017	12084	17656	22002	21680	22003	30125	38735	38731	42634	48808
1725	2722	10358	12878	13205	14445	17699	22043	21682	22437	30134	38767	41745	47637	49045



APPOINTMENTS

# New chiefs for Willis Faber & Dumas

Willis Faber & Dumas Mr R. N. Bowes has become chairman and Mr R. J. Elliott and Mr D. J. Martin have been made deputy chairmen. Mr R. G. Dixon, Mr M. D. T. Faber, Mr M. A. Hedley and Mr M. C. White have joined the board. Mr D. G. Shaw has been appointed chairman of the group's international division. Steel Brothers Holdings: Mr Peter Paice has been made an executive director from April 30. Mansion Finance Trust: Mr L. C. Cuck has become executive chairman in place of Mr John Mowat who has retired. Mr Quirk will also take Mr Mowat's place as chairman of the subsidiaries which include Edward Manson and Company and Mansion Factors. Belstaff International: Mr David Brocklehurst, formerly finance director, has been appointed managing director. Wardley London: Mr Michael Hamer has joined the boards of Wardley London Holdings and Wardley London. Mr Hamer will be in charge of corporate finance department. Mr Andrew Skinner has been appointed to the board of Wardley London. J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co: Mr Jean Solandt has become a joint vice-chairman. Mr Adam Broadbent, a director of Schroder Wagg, has been appointed head of corporate finance. Thomson Regional Newspapers: Mr R. Ridley-Thomas, managing director of Aberdeen Journals, is appointed managing director of the Scotsman Publications, Edinburgh, publishers of *The Scotsman* and the *Living News*. Mr J. A. Logan has been made managing director of Aberdeen Journals, publishers of the *Press & Journal* and the *Evening Express*.

# Insurance hit by rumours

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Jan 30. Dealings end, Today. Contango Day, Feb 13. Settlement Day, Feb 20.

A chill wind ran through the big insurance companies yesterday amid rumours that one leading analyst had decided to downgrade profits of Commercial Union for the year. The rumours proved unfounded, but the composite sector never recovered with CU tumbling 6p to 176p, General Accident 8p to 433p, Guardian Royal Exchange 4p to 326p, Royal Assurance 3p to 438p, Sun Alliance 15p to 113 15/16. Sentiment was not helped by the details of the cost to property during January's storms. The British Insurance Association has put the cost as high as £70m. It was the worst set of figures for two years when blizzards and flooding cost the insurance companies a cool £1.5bn. Broker Montagu, Loeb & Stanley reckons any self-respecting oil portfolio is not complete without "substantial long term holdings" in *Clyde Petroleum*. Sales of its non-oil interests have left the group with a strong balance sheet to cope with the sector's risk/return and developments - including farm-ins and *Witch Farm* - could result in a significant re-rating. The shares lost 2p to 121p. £250m. The BIA calculates CU will have to fork out about £10m, GRE £8m, Royal 10m to £12m and Sun Alliance about £11m. Broker Wood Mackenzie says these figures are way below that of 1982, but will still make a significant impact on first quarter figures from the composites. The Lloyd's insurance brokers fared little better. Stewart Wrightson lost 8p to 31p, Willis Faber 3p to 68p, C.E. Heath 4p to 351p and Hogg Robinson 3p to 163p. Minet Holdings ended the day 1p shy of 143p, after 142p, as a line of 300,000 shares that had been

overhanging the market was finally cleared. Elsewhere, the jobbers decided to again call prices sharply lower, following Wall Street's worst performance for over 15 months with the Dow Jones average plunging 24 points. But prices did recover and the FT index closed only 3.7 down at 801.3 having been 15.4 off earlier in the day. Conditions were described as tense with investors clearly in no mood to open new positions with just two days of the account left to run. One dealer complained the market had spent more time watching events in New York than conducting its own business. "All the way up we ignored Wall Street, but now the bubble has burst we hang on to every move downwards", he said. Among blue chips Boots slid 5p to 169p as a line of 1.5 million shares went through the market first thing at the 165p level. There was a vendor placing of 4.9 million shares in Fisons completed by broker Hoare Govett at 725p a share to raise £35m for its latest US acquisition. Fisons lost 18p to 744p. Losses were also seen in Allied-Lyons 1p to 149p, Associated Dairies 4p to 144p, BICC 7p to 258p, Blue Circle Industries 6p to 420p, Bowater 4p to 262p, Courtaulds 3p to 134p, GEC 4p to 178p, GKN 3p to 193p, Hawker Siddeley 4p to 404p, ICI 4p to 592p, Marks & Spencer 3p to 220p, P & O Deferred 3p to 264p, Plessey 4p to 204p, T1 Group 4p to 202p and Trusthouse Forte 3p to 201p. Only a few managed to resist the trend such as BTR rising 3p to 417p, Cadbury Schweppes 1p to 123p, Grand Metropolitan 5p to 335p, Imperial Group 2p to 154p, after figures, and Thorn-EMI 2p to 616p. Glaxo

managed to close all square at 735p. The gilt-edged market gave up 25p at the longer end of the market with the Chancellor's optimistic remarks about the economy making little impact. The new tap £1,000m of Exchequer 9 3/4 1998 opened at a discount in first time dealings as had been widely predicted. It closed 5p lower at £24 1/2 in its partly paid form. There was renewed speculative support for Ladbroke, up 7p to 243p. The market is eagerly awaiting news of a bid - possibly from Bass unchanged at 305p. Both companies were unavailable for comment. Lough, another company tipped as a likely suitor for Ladbroke, closed 1p up at 129p after revealing pretax profits up from £75m to £113.2m. But the discount houses lost ground in line with the rest of the market as Alexanders Discount eased 3p to 399p, Cater Allen Holdings 5p to 453p, Gerrard & National 3p to 299p, Jessel Toyne 1p to 84p, King & Shaxson 1p to 127p, Seacombe Marshall 5p to 265p and Union Discount 5p to 698p. Oil shares recovered from a hesitant start to close mostly higher on the day in thin conditions. Burmah stood out with a rise of 8p to 189p, after 176p. Avon rose 3p to 250p, Dome Petroleum 10p to 350p, Hunting Petroleum 2p to 154p, KCA Drilling 2p to 36p and Berkeley Exploration 1p to 121p. Once again most of the attention was turned to those companies North Sea oil interests. The big groups were given the cold shoulder. BP slipped 2p to 431p, British was unchanged at 233p, after 228p, Lams was down 13p to 308p, Shell 20p to 598p and Ultramar 17p to 642p. Tricentral also fell 7p to 196p on news of the retrenchment of its US interests. Among the Irish oil explorers Arun Energy rose 4p to 73p, Atlantic Resources 2p to 258p and Bala Resources 2p to 27p. Shares of Walter Lawrence slipped 2p to 230p following a vendor placing of 1.2 million shares by broker Hoare Govett. There was a similar placing of 3 million shares in Sunlight Services, down 10p to 210p, in order to finance the group purchase of its shares in Spring Grove. Stores group A. Caird rose 2p to 50p after hours following the news Panther Securities, a privately-owned investment company, had sold its 5 per cent stake, amounting to 165,000, to an unknown buyer outside the market. Brewery shares had a few bright spots with Matthew Brown rising 2p to 210p.

# Half-time profits up by 28% at Dale

On turnover less than 2 per cent greater at £19,44m, pretax profits of Dale Electric International climbed by 28 per cent to £1.3m in the half-year to October 30. The interim payment, net, is being lifted from 1.2p to 1.5p a share. The board explains that more selective turnover, improved control of costs and prices have enabled all group companies to operate firmly in profit, including the associate in Mexico, now returned to profit. In the 1980s, Dale pretax profits were over the £3m mark. By 1982-83, they had fallen to £1.5m. But the board now feels that the corner has been turned and the road to recovery is well in sight.

## In brief

● Walter Lawrence: An upturn in the fortunes of builders merchants has led Walter Lawrence to take over Tricom Supplies, a subsidiary of Combined Technologies. Lawrence has paid for the deal by issuing 1.17 million new shares to Combined Technologies which has had them placed by Hoare Govett in the market. Tricom is based predominantly in the Midlands and north, while Lawrence is active in the south. ● Akroyd & Smithers, one of London's two premier jobbers, announces that Viscount Garmoyne and Mr Oscar Lewisohn, from S. C. Warburg, have joined the board as non-executive directors. The banker and jobber formed an alliance last year. ● London Shop Property Trust: Half-year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Property revenue 3,357 (2,763). Pretax profit 2,373 (1,946). Interim payment up from 1.5p to 2 p a share to reduce disparity between payments. ● Drayton Far Eastern Trust: Year to Dec 31, 1983. Revenue, after all charges, £147,000 (£137,000). Total dividend unchanged at 0.85p net a share. ● William Ransom and Sons: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. Interim payment unchanged at 1.5p. Figures in £000. Turnover 1,667 (1,479). Pretax profit 143 (65). Tax 74 (34). Earnings per share 4.57p (3.09p). If there is no slackening in demand in Feb and March, the board expects the second half-year to produce profits similar to or slightly in excess of those for the same period last year. ● Plastic Constructors: Total dividend for year to Sept 30, 1983, up from 2.17p to 2.38p net a share. Turnover £10,74m (£9,28). Pretax profits up from £91,000 to £249,000. Tax £16,000 (credit of £71,000 last year). Chairman believes Plastic Constructors is emerging from the depressed period of the last two years. Sales for the first quarter of the current year indicate that the company can expect significant increases in turnover and profit for the full year, subject to the continuation of the improved business climate. ● Equity Capital for Industry: Two investments - totalling £250,000 are to be made by Equity Capital for Industry. In the first, ECI and British Tar Plastics are each providing £150,000 second round finance for Neo Plants, a Lancashire-based company engaged in plant tissue culture, in return for 25 per cent equity stakes. In the second ECI is acquiring a 16 per cent holding in Combustion Developments, a Derbyshire-based instrumentation company, and is providing £100,000 of second round finance.

# Taddale launches £7.9m hotels bid

By Jeremy Warner

Taddale Investments yesterday launched a £7.9m takeover bid for Prince of Wales Hotels. The Southport company it has been stalking since June when it bought a 16.5 per cent stake. The offer was combined by J. Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank which advises Prince of Wales, as "unacceptable, inadequate and lacking in all credibility", and looks about to provoke a bitter war of words. Mr Arnold Clayman, the Prince of Wales chairman, was described as "a yesterday's man with yesterday's ideas who should not be running a company like this", by Mr Michael Carlton, Taddale's deputy chairman. Mr Clayman retorted by drawing attention to the fact that Taddale, whose shares are traded on the over-the-counter market operated by Harvard Securities, was recently refused a quote by the Stock Exchange. Taddale said in a statement accompanying its 130p-a-share cash offer that if it gained control it would bring in two men described as "very experienced" in hotel management, to run the company. But Prince of Wales, which owns the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool, dismissed the two as "totally unknown" in the hotel industry. The offer is being made conditional on shareholders voting at a meeting on Monday against the company's plans to raise £2.7m through a rights issue to help with the cost of buying the St George's Hotel in London. The meeting is likely to be adjourned to allow shareholders the chance to choose between the bid and the board's rival plans for the company. Taddale intends to preserve the Prince of Wales share quote by placing around 40 per cent of the company's shares back with institutional investors once it has acquired the company. On the stock market Prince of Wales shares jumped 18p to 136p. This is above the level of the Taddale bid.

# Horne poised for quote on USM

By Michael Clark

Robert Horne Group, the paper merchant, is coming to the United Securities Market this month and is asking investors to subscribe for two classes of shares. The group is planning to offer 1.8 million shares in units of one ordinary share and one non-voting "A" share, representing 12.5 per cent of the issued share capital. The offer price has yet to be agreed, but with the shares on a price/earnings ratio of between 11 and 13, the price is likely to be pitched at about the 80p level. No new money will be raised by the issue, and the shares are being offered by existing shareholders, including the Horne family, County Bank and Investors in Industry. After the sale the Horne family will continue to own about 55 per cent of the remaining equity. It is only the second time that investors have been offered two different classes of shares on the USM and highlights the Horne Group's complicated share structure, which includes at least four different types of shares. The business was founded by the family in 1925 and now supplies printing companies throughout Britain and Ireland. In the past seven years pretax profits have risen from £1.14m to £4m, on sales up to £36.7m to £86m and the group is now Britain's largest independent paper supplier. The paper market in Britain swallows up more than 750,000 tonnes a year, excluding newspapers and craft paper, and Horne says it controls about 15 per cent of this market. At its huge warehouse in Northampton, the group offers about 3,500 different lines, weighing more than 12.5 tonnes, with a value of about £7m. The group also guarantees delivery within 24 hours. The group with its size and previous track record, would have had little difficulty in applying for a full stock market quote, but the reluctance of its main shareholders to part with anything but the bare minimum meant that the USM was the only course left open to the board. Mr Robin Jones, a director, asked if the group would eventually go for a full listing said: "We will let that take its course. In an ideal world we might have gone for a full listing."

# Sunlight buys St George's from takeover rivals

By Wayne Lintott

Laundry and cleaning industry rivals Sunlight Services and Pritchard Services yesterday announced an agreement for Sunlight to buy the St George's linen hire business from Pritchard. St George's was the division of Spring Grove that sustained such large trading losses that the Spring Grove was forced into seeking a merger. Pritchard and Sunlight fought a £17m takeover battle for Spring Grove last September. Pritchard won. Sunlight said that it is paying Pritchard £2.43m over the next three years. Sunlight also announced two other acquisitions, the Nicholson Group and Smithwick. Twelve of the company's shareholders were urged yesterday not to accept the Bell bid.

# Gleneagles in new dispute

By Our Financial Staff

The Takeover Panel is to be asked to adjudicate again in the bitter takeover battle for Gleneagles Hotels. This time the argument is about whether Arthur Bell & Sons, which is bidding £27m in shares and already has control, should be allowed to make its separate offer for Gleneagles loan stock open to only those who accept the share offer.

# Now Cable has eyes on China

By Jonathan Davis Financial Correspondent

Mr Eric Sharp, chairman of Cable & Wireless, confirmed yesterday that a key factor behind his company's bid for the Hongkong Telephone Company was its desire to expand its operations in China. "I have no doubt that opportunities will occur (in China) and they will be facilitated by our takeover of the telephone company", he said in Hongkong. The new opportunities would not just be confined to Guangdong province, where Cable & Wireless has already signed two joint ventures with the Chinese Government in the last 18 months. Another Cable & Wireless director, Mr Brian Pemberton, said that the company would also be seeking to change the scheme of control under which Hongkong Telephone operates. Under the scheme approved by the Hongkong Government, the company's profits are limited to a 16 per cent return on shareholders' funds after taxation. "We feel that it is an overly tight scheme of control and could be relaxed", Mr Pemberton said. The board of Hongkong Telephone is advising its shareholders to hang on to their shares as an investment, even though Cable & Wireless has successfully raised its stake

## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		Three months		1984-85-1985-86	
Coffees, 100 lbs per cwt		T.O.		T.O.	
Arabica		3,716-3,720		3,716-3,720	
Robusta		3,363-3,364		3,363-3,364	
Cocoa beans, 100 lbs per cwt		T.O.		T.O.	
March		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
April		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
May		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
June		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
July		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
August		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
September		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
October		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
November		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
December		2,006-2,007		2,006-2,007	
SUGAR		184-184.40		184-184.40	
March		184-184.40		184-184.40	
April		184-184.40		184-184.40	
May		184-184.40		184-184.40	
June		184-184.40		184-184.40	
July		184-184.40		184-184.40	
August		184-184.40		184-184.40	
September		184-184.40		184-184.40	
October		184-184.40		184-184.40	
November		184-184.40		184-184.40	
December		184-184.40		184-184.40	
COPPER		240-240.00		240-240.00	
March		240-240.00		240-240.00	
April		240-240.00		240-240.00	
May		240-240.00		240-240.00	
June		240-240.00		240-240.00	
July		240-240.00		240-240.00	
August		240-240.00		240-240.00	
September		240-240.00		240-240.00	
October		240-240.00		240-240.00	
November		240-240.00		240-240.00	
December		240-240.00		240-240.00	
ZINC		240-240.00		240-240.00	
March		240-240.00		240-240.00	
April		240-240.00		240-240.00	
May		240-240.00		240-240.00	
June		240-240.00		240-240.00	
July		240-240.00		240-240.00	
August		240-240.00		240-240.00	
September		240-240.00		240-240.00	
October		240-240.00		240-240.00	
November		240-240.00		240-240.00	
December		240-240.00		240-240.00	
NICKEL		240-240.00		240-240.00	
March		240-240.00		240-240.00	
April		240-240.00		240-240.00	
May		240-240.00		240-240.00	
June		240-240.00		240-240.00	
July		240-240.00		240-240.00	
August		240-240.00		240-240.00	
September		240-240.00		240-240.00	
October		240-240.00		240-240.00	
November		240-240.00		240-240.00	
December		240-240.00		240-240.00	
LEAD		240-240.00		240-240.00	
March		240-240.00		240-240.00	
April		240-240.00		240-240.00	
May		240-240.00		240-240.00	
June		240-240.00		240-240.00	
July		240-240.00		240-240.00	
August		240-240.00		240-240.00	
September		240-240.00		240-240.00	
October		240-240.00		240-240.00	
November		240-240.00		240-240.00	
December		240-240.00		240-240.00	
STEEL		240-240.00		240-240.00	
March		240-240.00		240-240.00	
April		240-240.00		240-240.00	
May		240-240.00		240-240.00	



# "Lonrho's attributable profit is up 103% in 1983"

AN UPWARD TREND WILL CONTINUE IN 1984

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

## 3 years' record

The overall results of Lonrho show a healthy rise of 103% in both profit attributable to shareholders and earnings per share; this is the highest increase for seventeen years.

Lonrho has achieved an enormous amount this year which is reflected, not only in a substantial increase in profitability, but also in the Group balance sheet which remains strong with gross assets approaching £1.9 billion, including cash balances at the year end standing at £109 million. Total net borrowings, excluding those relating to our confirming businesses, have remained at 30% of gross assets which is the same as last year.

A great deal of management effort has gone into increasing efficiency throughout the Group; these efforts have included the disposal of loss making and low yielding operations such as Hadfields, the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, and the Sunday Standard Newspaper in Glasgow.

I am glad to tell you that our United Kingdom based companies raised profits by over 78% in 1983, and were a major contributor to the overall rise. This improvement has been shared by nearly all trading activities within the United Kingdom and is not limited to a few. Every indication is that our United Kingdom companies will continue to increase in prosperity.

Our traditional activities of agriculture and mining have performed very well this year, which is not only attributable to improved commodity prices, but is also as a result of reduced operating costs and, in most areas, increased production.

The hotel and casino divisions are showing good growth within Lonrho, and these divisions have been expanded through the opening of the new Marquessa Tower at the Acapulco Princess in Mexico and the opening of two new casinos, one in London and the Princess Casino in the Bahamas.

Capital expenditure this year has been restricted to the minimum necessary to maintain our assets at their highest operating efficiency, and we have not undertaken any large long term projects.

We also benefit from a substantial increase in House of Fraser's profits and share price. Lonrho's near 30% holding in House of Fraser and the contribution and stimulus provided to the management of the company by our Directors has undoubtedly assisted in this improvement. The House of Fraser share price continues to reflect the general belief, by shareholders, that the demerger of Harrods is desirable.

The 180 mile pipeline between Beira and Mutare is fully restored and has been pumping fuel to Zimbabwe steadily throughout the year without interruption.

The Lonrho Group, including our associated companies, now employs over 150,000 people.

I know you will want to join all Members of the Board in expressing your appreciation for all the hard work and initiative contributed by those who work for Lonrho both in the United Kingdom and overseas and who have made this year so successful with their support. We have adequate reasons in the first quarter's figures to feel that 1984 will continue an upward trend for the Company as a whole.

## MINING AND REFINING

Improved precious metal prices prevailed over the year, which also saw platinum carry a premium over gold. Moreover, we again raised our platinum group metal output to 180,000 ounces for the year and are now producing some 50% more than two years ago. Group gold production was well maintained at the 400,000 ounce per year level.

Although precious metal prices continue to fluctuate, favourable exchange rates in all countries where we operate mines have so far cushioned any adverse effect.

Additional refining facilities are being planned for our platinum operations designed to release the large sums which are now locked up for long periods in unrefined inventories. At the same time these changes will save operating costs and improve metal recoveries.

Good progress has been made with the development of Eastern Gold Holdings, the major new Anglo American Corporation administered mine, which is planned to produce 400,000 ounces of gold annually at full production. Our subsidiary continues to hold its 36% interest in this venture. We are also planning the expansion of operations at the Ashanti Gold Mine in Ghana using loans from a consortium led by the International Finance Corporation.

Revenue from bituminous coal and anthracite mining was only slightly down in spite of a sharp reduction of sales, in line with the present weakness of coal markets. Capital expenditure at the coal mines was substantially below the level of recent years.

## AGRICULTURE

Lonrho and its subsidiaries are Africa's largest commercial food producers, ranching 100,000 head of cattle and farming 1.5 million acres throughout the continent. The Group has also put more land under cultivation in Africa than any other company in the world.

Our seven sugar estates in Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa and Swaziland returned to overall profitability during the year and increased production to over 420,000 tonnes.

In Zambia, our farming company, Kalangwa Estates, remains one of the largest producers of agricultural goods in the country, with products such as pork, beef, eggs, onions, wheat, maize and potatoes. During the year dairy farming was also introduced, which has proved to be immensely successful.

The drought in Zimbabwe had little effect on the profitability of our agricultural activities. With livestock being in good condition and high average weights being achieved, profits from the sale of 14,500 head of cattle were good. Profit from The Watle Company, which produces coffee, wattle extract and timber, were also substantially higher, due to better management controls and good coffee prices. We are the largest coffee producers in Zimbabwe.

In Malawi our tea estates produced a record crop of 4.8 million kilograms. A combination of good rainfall distribution, improved field practices and management skills produced some yields which are probably the highest in Malawi. The combination of high tea prices and production has resulted in profits being substantially up. We also grow tobacco, coffee and macadamia nuts in that country.

Our wattle extract company in Kenya, which also grows mushrooms, oil seed, wheat and maize and ranches cattle, maintained its reputation for high yields and good quality produce and continues to be a major exporter.

## HOTELS

The Princess Hotel Group in their first full year as wholly owned subsidiaries continued to achieve record profits. In October 1982 the new 320 room Marquessa Tower at the Acapulco Princess was opened, complementing the existing hotel which is a masterpiece of creative architecture. This luxury hotel complex, which is set in over 200 acres, has proved an extremely popular tourist and conference centre, maintaining high levels of occupancy.

In September it was announced that the Group had acquired a casino in Freeport in the Bahamas. It is intended to renovate completely the casino complex, which will form part of the existing Princess hotel facilities, in order to establish it as one of the finest casinos in the Caribbean.

The Princess Hotel Group now have more hotel rooms in the locations at which they operate than any of their competitors.

In the United Kingdom the Metropole Hotel Group held a record 1,050 conferences and exhibitions in 1983. The new Pembroke in Blackpool, in its first full year of operation, has proved a success with 150 conferences and exhibitions being held there. The Pembroke has also achieved a room occupancy level of 70% and is fully booked over the next two years for periods when party political conferences are held in Blackpool.

In Birmingham 575 conferences were staged and for this coming year the signs are that we will accommodate many more.

The London Metropole was busy during the year with its room occupancy reaching 88%.

Improvements to the hotel's facilities this year will yield results in 1984.

In the Casino Division the most exciting event of the year was the opening of a new casino in London. This luxurious casino has made a very good start. Lonrho operate 8 other casinos in the United Kingdom.

## WINES AND SPIRITS

Whyte & Mackay Distillers had another satisfactory year. Although the United Kingdom industry as a whole continued to operate in highly competitive conditions, Whyte & Mackay maintained its dominant position in Scotland and increased its distribution throughout England. Although export markets were generally difficult, good progress was made in a number of overseas markets.

Manufacture of knitted fabrics for use in both industrial and leisurewear products. Besco Baron successfully completed a modernisation programme at its mill in Rochdale.

Our textile companies in Africa had a mixed year. In Malawi, David Whitehead achieved good results while completing ahead of schedule the installation of Malawi's only cotton/polyester cloth manufacturing plant. The newly equipped Blantyre Netting Company exceeded all our expectations and is working at full production to meet local and export demand for polyester bags, nets and twine. David Whitehead in Zimbabwe had a difficult year with demand severely restricted. Following reorganisation the company is now better placed to react to changes in local demand.

## PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

In the year under review the Glasgow Herald's entry into its third century of continuous publication was highlighted by the visit of Her Majesty The Queen.

## YEAR AT A GLANCE

	1983	1982
Turnover	£2356.5m	£2336.2m
Profit before taxation	£113.2m	£75.1m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£40.6m	£20.0m
Earnings per share	15.5p	7.6p
Cash balances	£109.4m	£56.3m

The seventy-fifth Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Thursday, 29th March, 1984 at 12 noon.

Château Rausan-Ségla, Bordeaux

Major reorganisation at George Outram has resulted in improvements in the Glasgow Herald, Scotland's leading national newspaper, and the Evening Times. It is encouraging to see improving performances in both advertising and circulation in recent months.

The Observer, which is the oldest Sunday newspaper in Britain, and was voted Newspaper of the Year for 1982, has performed well during 1983.

Our provincial newspaper group, Scottish and Universal News, experienced another difficult trading year during which the economy was still in recession. The key themes of the year have been efficiency and innovation. Every week over one million readers in Scotland read a Scottish and Universal newspaper.

Throughout the year, our newspapers won national and international awards for research and community services.

Greenaway Harrison, one of the country's leading printing houses, has had a very successful year. The programme of capital expenditure to ensure the most advanced facilities and techniques for financial and security printing has progressed well. The extensive computer typesetting installations in this company, built up over the last few years, are unmatched by any other commercial, financial or city printer. The highly skilled design unit based in central London has won domestic and international credits and awards for its work.

The Harrison Group, postage stamp and security specialists, continued its programme of capital investment in

new product development and new areas of specialisation.

Harrison were proud to print, for the British Post Office, stamps which won two top international philatelic awards.

The educational publishing and bookselling divisions of Holmes McDougall gained important new export contracts and the reorganisation of its colour poster operations in the United States has been highly successful.

High quality label printing for the wine and spirits industry performed well and a number of major new contracts were obtained.

Holmes McDougall were awarded the publishing contract for "Crime, Law and Society" by the Home Office.

The Group also publishes newspapers in Kenya including The Standard and Sunday Standard.

## ENGINEERING

The recession in the United Kingdom continued to affect most of our engineering companies during the first half of 1983. However, there are signs that the modest recovery in the economy which began in the summer will continue.

Hadfields was acquired by a consortium headed by the British Steel Corporation as part of the first stage of the Engineering Steels Industry Rationalisation plan, code named Phoenix II.

Newell Dunford, the process plant engineers, is the leader in the field of waste disposal technology, manufacturing plants which convert household waste into low cost fuels, thereby reducing energy costs and resolving the environmental problems associated with the traditional methods of waste disposal.

Lightfoot Refrigeration has enjoyed another successful year and has completed a number of large overseas contracts.

Our furniture companies maintained progress in a difficult market and Sheer Pride, the metal office furniture manufacturer, successfully launched a new range of filing cabinets which are fast becoming market leaders.

## PROPERTY, EXPORT CONFIRMING, FINANCE AND AIRCRAFT

Our land renewal company, Sportsworld, won the Grand Award of the British Association of Landscape Industries for the best executed contribution to environmental improvements for their work on the Calton Church Precinct in Glasgow. They also gained the principal award for the first major park to have been created in Glasgow since the Second World War.

Overseas, our Belgian subsidiary S.E.E., which is producing water treatment plants for Nigeria, Cameroon and North Africa, is progressing satisfactorily and prospects for further major orders are good.

In Zimbabwe, Dahmers maintained their dominance in the local truck and bus market, with sales of 424 units. Progress is being made in obtaining export markets for their vehicles, which are designed locally and are excellent for use throughout Africa.

In addition, Vitreux Paints, our paint manufacturing company in Zambia, had a record year.

## MOTOR DISTRIBUTION

V.A.G. (United Kingdom) the sole U.K. importer for Audi and Volkswagen products has improved its unit sales performance every year since its acquisition in 1975 and has once again achieved record sales and profits.

Total vehicle sales of 110,000 units ensured that V.A.G. has maintained its position as the leading importer of European cars. The 1983 Car of the Year Audi 100 has quickly established itself in the market and has now been joined by a sporty estate version, the Avant. During 1984 the company will launch a most significant new model which will be a replacement for the best selling Volkswagen Golf.

The Group is also the sole importer of Volkswagen and M.A.N. trucks and buses into the United Kingdom.

The Dutton-Forsyth Motor Group, whose principal activity is the distribution of BL vehicles.

During the year Tradewinds Airways continued to operate services to Africa whilst gradually converting charter services to scheduled routes. The airline has already commenced scheduled freight services to the U.S.A. and the Sudan.

The Group currently owns or leases a total of 38 aircraft including a Gulfstream and two Boeing 707's.

substantially improved its performance in 1983. Rationalisation of their depot network continued and, allowing for closures, they maintained just under 6% of sales of BL's products, with sales of over 31,000 vehicles. The Dutton-Forsyth Group also increased its share of the national Jaguar sales in the U.K. by 24% compared with the national increase of 10%.

Throughout the year Jack Barclay retained their position as the number one distributor of Rolls Royce cars, accounting for 22% of United Kingdom sales. The extensive service facilities at Battersea performed well under their new senior management.

The sale of agricultural machinery increased considerably during the year particularly Deutz tractors, and Fahr combine harvesters. Distribution and service facilities were expanded.

Western Machinery had an outstanding year. The sale of Taarup and Welgar agricultural equipment was again highly satisfactory.

In Africa our motor vehicles and agricultural machinery distributors performed well. We are Africa's largest and most widespread motor distributor, holding nearly every major franchise including Mercedes Benz, Land Rover, Toyota, Peugeot and General Motors in one country or another. In Nigeria we have successfully established a vehicle leasing operation and a number of substantial contracts have been concluded with large fleet users.

## KÜHNE AND NAGEL

The Kühne and Nagel Group of companies, with 300 offices all over the world, continued to run its shipping, forwarding and warehousing business successfully. In Germany the company has extended its freight terminals in three cities and introduced a nationwide parcel service system, whilst warehousing in North America was extended by the acquisition of a warehouse in Chicago.

Transport connected activities such as ship brokerage, crating, port handling and travel have been further developed and a subsidiary of Kühne and Nagel has been entrusted with the formation of a national shipping line for a major African country.

London City & Westliff Properties and A.V.P. Properties, our property investment companies, have had another successful year. Together with Lonrho, these companies own a diverse portfolio of commercial, residential and industrial properties in England and France. During the year the Group has realised certain low yielding industrial properties, leaving it with a well balanced portfolio of properties which have a current value in excess of £66 million.

Notwithstanding these disposals, there has been an increase in the gross rental income of the property portfolio.

In October 1983 we also purchased the prestigious "45 Park Lane" site in London which will be a valuable addition to our property portfolio.

The international confirming and financing activities of Balfour Williamson continued to be adversely influenced by the deterioration of world wide trading conditions over the past years. However, performance in 1984 is expected to show a marked improvement.

The volume of exports to West Africa being financed by John Holt was reduced in 1983 as a result of tighter controls on imports to Nigeria.

The Nigerian investment and property company J.H.I. maintained its impressive growth record and has now acquired a controlling interest in an established Lagos Finance House, the benefits from which will accrue in 1984.

Our cotton broking firm, Baumann Hinde, had a satisfactory year's trading.

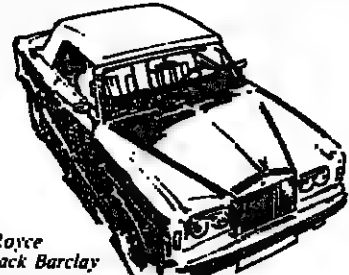
Our Beechcraft franchise in Africa recorded the best world-wide divisional sales of these aircraft for 1983. The Group also holds the Lear Jet franchise in Africa. Total sales of aircraft in the year amounted to 82 units.

During the year Tradewinds Airways continued to operate services to Africa whilst gradually converting charter services to scheduled routes. The airline has already commenced scheduled freight services to the U.S.A. and the Sudan.

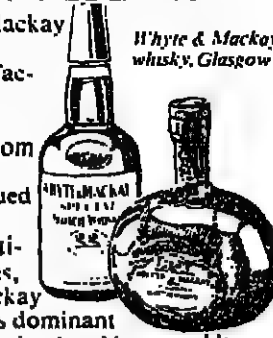
The Group currently owns or leases a total of 38 aircraft including a Gulfstream and two Boeing 707's.

Yours sincerely,  
R W Rowland

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Review contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September, 1983 which will be published in late-February. Copies will be available from The Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2N 4DL



Rolls Royce from Jack Barclay



Whyte & Mackay whisky, Glasgow



Aerial spraying, Malawi



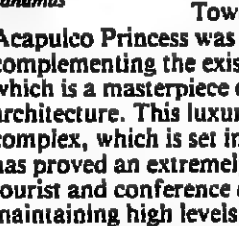
Harrods



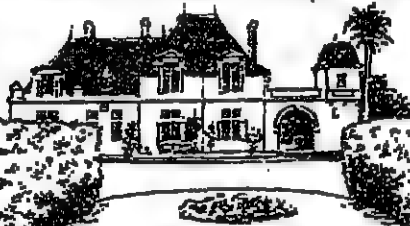
The Observer



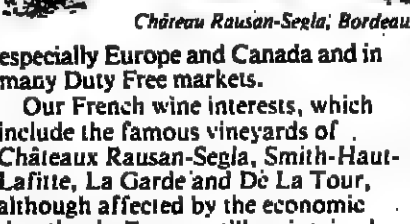
The Princess Casino, Bahamas



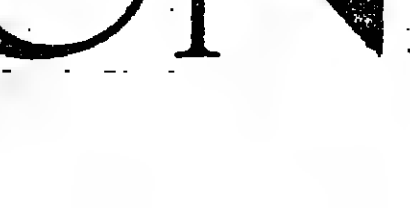
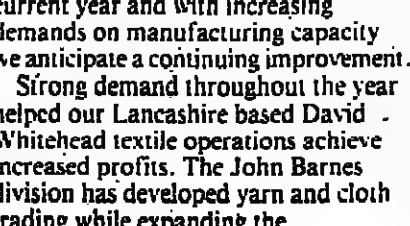
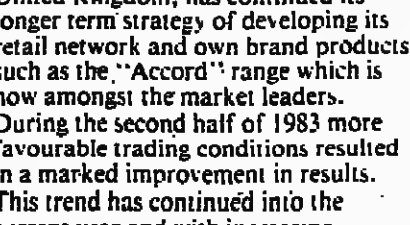
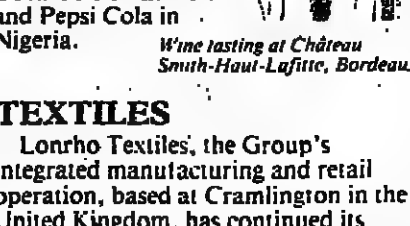
Acapulco Princess Hotel, Mexico



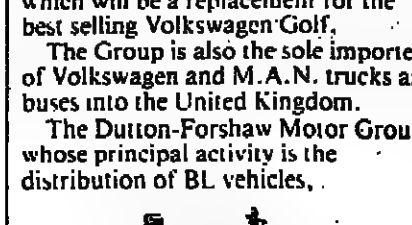
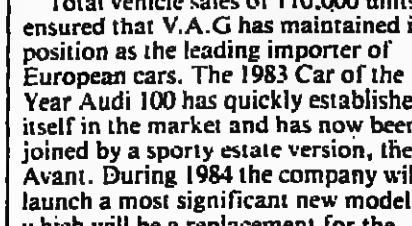
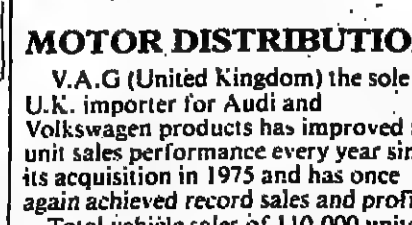
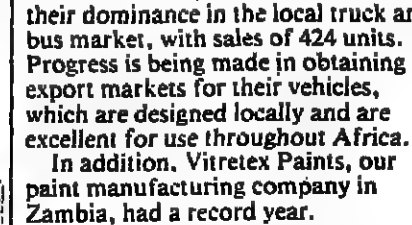
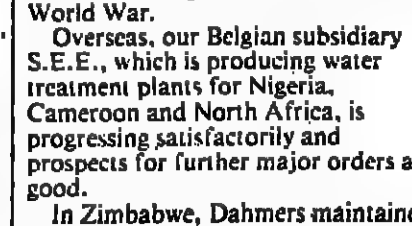
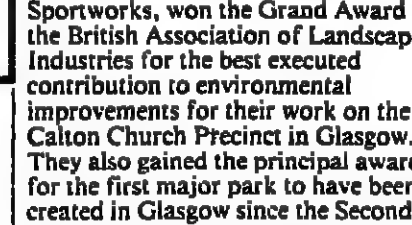
The 'old new' Golf from Volkswagen



Wine tasting at Château Rausan-Ségla, Bordeaux



Buses built by W. Dahmer & Co., Zimbabwe



# LONRHO







# Cooking outwith day care attendance allowance

In re Woodling  
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook  
[Speeches delivered February 9]

The requirement of another person's assistance in preparing meals was not an element of "attention" in connection with... bodily functions. The House of Lords said dismissing an appeal by Mrs Nona Parks Woodling from a decision of Mr Justice Woolf who refused to reverse by prerogative order decisions of the Attendance Allowance Board and the Social Security Commissioners that the appellant was not entitled to an attendance allowance under section 35 of the Social Security Act 1975.

Section 35(1) of the 1975 Act provides: "A person shall be entitled to an attendance allowance if he satisfies prescribed conditions as to residence or presence in Great Britain and either—(a) he is so severely disabled physically or mentally that, by day, he requires from another person either—(i) frequent attention throughout the day in connection with his bodily functions; or (ii) continual supervision throughout the day in order to avoid substantial danger to himself or others..."

LORD BRIDGE said that a person requiring attention only by day or only by night received an attendance allowance at one rate, a person requiring attention both by day and by night at a higher rate. The sole criterion of the decision of the delegated medical practitioner (duty discharging the function delegated to him by the Attendance Allowance Board) was that, in concluding that the appellant was not entitled to an attendance allowance under section 35(1) (no claim for attention at night having been made), he erred in law in excluding from consideration another person's assistance in preparing her meals as an element of "attention" in connection with her bodily functions.

The scope of the provision in its context had been a matter of controversy for some time. The legislation assumed its present form in 1972.

The Court of Appeal was told in *Fackler's* case that until 1971 it was the universal practice of delegated medical practitioners to exclude

cooking from the relevant "attention" to be considered under section 35(1)(a). Before 1979, in cases in which the point was not directly in issue, there were some conflicting dicta of different commissioners.

The point of construction was a short one, a difficult one and a history of the controversy about it had shown a point on which different views. It was largely a matter of impression and did not admit of elaborate argument or analysis.

First, it was clear that the policy underlying section 35 stopped short of providing an attendance allowance for all who were incapable of looking after themselves without some outside help even if that help was frequently required.

Very large areas of domestic work in respect of which the disabled had been excluded from help on others were deliberately excluded. If cooking was the one domestic chore that qualified, it was, in a sense, the odd man out.

Again, it seemed a reasonable inference that the policy of the enactment was to provide a financial incentive to encourage families or friends to undertake the difficult and sometimes distasteful task of looking after the disabled person who was so severely disabled that they must otherwise become a charge on some public institution.

The language of the section should be considered as a whole, and such consideration would be more likely to reveal the intention than an attempt to analyse each word or phrase separately.

The totality of the language to be construed read "A person... is so severely disabled physically or mentally that, by day, he requires from another person... frequent attention throughout the day in connection with his bodily functions". At first blush that language did not fit the person whose physical disability only prevented him from preparing his own meals.

If one had to break down and attempt to analyse the language three points needed emphasis. First, the disability must be severe. Second, the phrase "bodily functions" was a restricted and precise one, narrower than, for example, "bodily needs". Third, the phrase "attention" in connection with bodily functions, which must be read as a whole, connoted a high degree of physical intimacy between the person giving and the person receiving the attention.

The correct criterion was contained in the words of Mr Commissioner Monroe in 1974 and cited by Lord Justice Dunn in *Fackler's* case: "the words of the section refer to a person who needs the relevant degree of attention in connection with the performance of his bodily functions and... they are directed primarily to the question whether the fit man normally performs himself". Accordingly, the restricted construction was the correct one.

LORD DIPLOCK, LORD SCARMAN, LORD ROSKILL and LORD BRANDON agreed.

Solicitors: Outed & Co for Kirk Jackson & Co, Swinton; Solicitors, Department of Health and Social Security.

# Guidance on remitting to juvenile court for sentence

Regina v Lewis (Michael)  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Leggatt  
[Judgment delivered January 31]

Guidance about the effect of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 on the need to remit convicted juveniles to a juvenile court for sentence was given by the Lord Chief Justice delivering judgment dismissing an appeal by Michael Lewis, aged 16, from a sentence of five years' detention imposed under section 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 by Judge Cohen at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court.

The appellant, then aged 15, had pleaded guilty to wounding another youth with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, contrary to section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, by stabbing him repeatedly with a flick knife.

Mr Euan Duff, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in the circumstances the five-year sentence was absolutely correct. There was no doubt that the correct procedure had been adopted by the judge.

However, there seemed to have been a variation among crown courts in the practice adopted with regard to the need to remit juveniles convicted in the crown court to a juvenile court for sentence and it might be helpful to take the opportunity afforded by the present case to give some guidance on the topic.

His Lordship reviewed the historical background, from the Children Act 1908 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, and said that, after 1969, unless the crown court and its predecessors considered it appropriate to deal with a juvenile in a manner which was beyond the powers of a juvenile court, or by discharge, fine or bind over of parent or guardian, the matter was to be remitted to a juvenile court: *R v Holden* (1981) 3 Cr App R (S) 78 and *R v Bailey* (1982) 4 Cr App R (S) 176.

His Lordship said that the report had to be obtained and it became available. That situation, however, should be avoided wherever possible, for example, by the committing justice, giving directions that reports be obtained before the trial.

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# False entry on internal document no offence

Regina v Tweedie (Brian Gordon)  
Before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Drake and Mr Justice Hobhouse  
[Judgment delivered January 27]

An employee, who knowingly put a false entry on a document with the intent to deceive, or mislead his employer, was not guilty of an offence under section 1(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, where that document was to be used for internal purposes and not intended to go to a third party.

The Court of Appeal Criminal Division, so held when allowing the appeal of Brian Gordon Tweedie against his conviction of corruption on October 8, 1982 at the Central Criminal Court contrary to section 1(1) of the Act and his sentence of nine months imprisonment suspended for two years, and discharging the criminal bankruptcy order made against him in the sum of £170,000.

Section 1(1) of the 1906 Act provides in the third paragraph: "If any person knowingly gives to any agent, or if any agent knowingly uses with intent to deceive his principal, any receipt, account, or other document in respect of which the principal has been entrusted with the custody or control, which contains any statement which is false or erroneous or defective in any material particular, and which to his knowledge is intended to mislead the principal, he shall be guilty of an offence".

Mr John Black, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr R. Alan Jones, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the appellant had

# Employer of jewel thief liable for loss

Nahhas (formerly Hicks) v Pier House (Cheyne Walk) Management Ltd and Another  
Before Mr Denis Henry QC  
[Judgment delivered February 1]

A company's duty of which was to manage a block of flats would be vicariously liable for the fraud of a porter employed by it who had used keys entrusted to him by a tenant to gain entry to her flat and steal property belonging to her.

Mr Denis Henry QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment awarding the plaintiff, Mrs Anne Elizabeth Nahhas, damages of £23,250 in respect of jewelry stolen from her by an employee of the first defendant, Pier House (Cheyne Walk) Management Ltd. The second defendant was Harold Williams Bengett & Partners, estate agents.

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# Parent's candle duty

Janfir v Akbar and Another  
Before Mr Denis Henry QC  
[Judgment delivered February 1]

If a parent knew that there were candles present in his house, he was under a duty to instruct his minor children as to the caution with which lighted candles should be used, and to take steps to prevent danger arising from the use of candles by them.

Mr Justice Peter Pain so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 1, giving judgment in the plaintiff, Miss Naima Bibi Janfir, against the first defendant, Mr Malik Akbar, on the issue of liability in an action which she had brought against him and his son, Akbar Akbar, who, when aged 14, had, consequent upon his negligence with a lighted candle, caused a fire at his home, as a result of which the plaintiff had sustained serious injury.

His Lordship said that the second defendant, Akbar Akbar, was liable for the plaintiff's injury, but the first defendant alone was liable because he had given his son no instruction or warning about the use of candles, knowing that there were candles present in the house.

The plaintiff had also alleged breach of the common duty of care imposed on the first defendant by section 2 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957, but his Lordship doubted whether that Act was intended to cover such a case as this, and accordingly he would give judgment in negligence only.

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# Tolerance clause in time charter

Atlantic Lines and Navigation Co Inc v Didymal Corporation and Another  
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson  
[Judgment delivered February 6]

When time charters contained clauses that ships were to be redelivered to owners five years from the commencement of the charter with tolerance periods of three months more or less in the charterers' option, to be narrowed to 45 days more or less in the charterers' option at latest by the end of the fourth year of the charter, charterers gave after the end of the fourth year the option to narrow the tolerance periods to the 90 days immediately prior to the end of the fifth year would be effective.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Atlantic Lines and Navigation Co Inc against the judgment of Mr Justice Staughton on January 16 (*The Times*, January 18) who granted the charterers a declaration that they were entitled to redeliver two ships within the 90-day period immediately prior to the fifth anniversary of the commencement of the charter.

His Lordship said that the second defendant, Akbar Akbar, was liable for the plaintiff's injury, but the first defendant alone was liable because he had given his son no instruction or warning about the use of candles, knowing that there were candles present in the house.

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# Holidays for disabled

Regina v Ealing London Borough Council, Ex parte Lesman  
Where a disabled person had applied to a local authority under section 2(1)(b) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 for financial assistance in taking a

privately arranged holiday, it was an error of law for the authority to decline to consider the application on the ground that they would only grant such assistance for holidays which they had arranged or sponsored. Mr Justice Vinn held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 6.

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His Lordship said that the second defendant, Akbar Akbar, was liable for the plaintiff's injury, but the first defendant alone was liable because he had given his son no instruction or warning about the use of candles, knowing that there were candles present in the house.

The plaintiff had also alleged breach of the common duty of care imposed on the first defendant by section 2 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957, but his Lordship doubted whether that Act was intended to cover such a case as this, and accordingly he would give judgment in negligence only.

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RACING: COLIN BROWN MISSES SCHWEPPE'S RIDE ON BUCKBE AFTER WINCANTON FALL

Young trainer soon to join Epsom's historic ranks

## Figures support Board's case

By Michael Seely

The Harry Bartley and Billy Newnes case has highlighted the importance of the dispute between the Horseracing Betting Levy Board and the bookmakers which is now before the Home Secretary for adjudication. The board are seeking an increase in levy rates, not only to keep prize money stable but to ensure that there is no further cutback in the integrity services and other crucial areas.

In the 22nd levy scheme which is now in operation, a reduction of seven per cent was agreed between the Levy Board and the bookmakers because of forecasts of declining turnover and profitability. The Levy Board considered these forecasts to be too pessimistic and that there was evidence of an underlying upward trend in turnover and a possibility in increased profitability in 1983.

The half-yearly reports from Ladbrokes and William Hill supported the Levy Board's opinion. For the six months ending July 1983, Ladbrokes showed a 10 per cent increase in profits compared to the same period in 1982, while William Hill's trading heading, the trading profit, rose from £2.8m to £3.7m for the corresponding periods.

Neither side will comment at the moment as the matter is subjudice. The Home Secretary's decision is expected before the end of next week. However, the Levy Board's case has already been stated. They have already made significant expenditure reductions, including prize money, and loans for racecourse improvements have also been reduced.

It is also considered that there is an urgent need for the application of additional resources for the protection of the integrity of racing. Other areas which need financial assistance are veterinary science and education, capital improvements on racecourses, particularly to improve safety standards, and the British Racing School.

The bookmakers' argument is that Ladbrokes and Hills are not necessarily representative of the industry as a whole. They would also argue that these profits were made partly because of the efficiency and cost-cutting of the bookmakers, particularly in the area of the bookmaker's overheads.

Their main case, however, lies in the fact that the levy is based on turnover and not on profitability. There is no reason why the levy should be increased to the detriment of the industry from which they derive their livelihood.

## Top sire sold

Halo, leading sire in the United States in 1983, has been sold for \$4.5m to a group from Texas headed by Tom Tanham and Ben Morris for \$36m.



Wincanton winners: Richard Linley and Fifty Dollars More

## Hill of Slane to underline Burrough Hill Lad's rise

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Hill of Slane can underline Burrough Hill Lad's chance in the Cheltenham Gold Cup next month by winning the Harwell Handicap Chase at Newbury today. At Sandown last Saturday, Burrough Hill Lad gave Hill of Slane a 19-length hiding in the Gainsborough Chase.

Nevertheless, Hill of Slane will be hard to beat off today's mark, even allowing for the fact that the opposition includes such doubtful individuals as Straight Jockey, who has run so well at Newbury before, Mid Day Gun, Musso and King Ba Ba.

With tomorrow's Schweppes Gold Trophy in mind it will be interesting to see how Princes Boy runs in the Haig Whisky Hurdle (Qualifier) for it was this six-year-old who gave supporters of Admiral's Cup, a five Schweppes hope, the fight of their lives at Ascot in December.

John Francome remains adamant that Admiral's Cup was not at his best that day but Princes Boy will surpass himself by finishing in front of Permaboss, Robin Wonder, Alastor, O Mavros, Great Light and

Sula Bula. He must stand an excellent chance of winning today after smaller fry.

With Son of a Gunner, Statesmanship, Childown, Comedy Fair, Easter Lee and Oregon Trail all standing their ground, the Stroud Green Hurdle should shed some much-needed light upon the

Triumph Hurdle which looks even more open than usual this season. The pity is that Pacificate was withdrawn at the eleventh hour. In his absence I shall take a chance with Statesmanship whose running in the Triumph Hurdle Trial at Cheltenham in December was a

shadow of his fine performance at Ascot a month before. I remain unconvinced that Childown is good enough to win the four-year-old championships at Cheltenham even though he has won at Kempton and Sandown. Son of a Gunner faces

Steeplechase opposition that he encountered at either Taunton or Chepstow.

Michael Dickinson has interesting runners at Uttoxeter and Ayr. Robert Earshaw will be at Uttoxeter to partner that good mare

Sea Spice in the Field Novices' Chase, her first race since Goodwood. Dickinson's novices have a habit of winning at the first attempt and Sea Spice receives a stone from West Tip and Hy-Ko. Much as I admire both, I cannot see either of them being a contender for the

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Steeplechase opposition that he encountered at either Taunton or Chepstow.

Michael Dickinson has interesting runners at Uttoxeter and Ayr. Robert Earshaw will be at Uttoxeter to partner that good mare

## Browne's bad break on day of drama

By John Kier

Dull it certainly was not at small Huntingdon yesterday. The sleepy little Cambridgeshire course saw a series of dramas, beginning with an extraordinary turn of events which left Dermot Browne, the champion amateur jockey, with a broken collar bone in the day's feature race, the British Bank Handicap.

Browne's Gazette, winner of his three previous races by street lengths, started 2-1 on and when Browne sent the six-year-old galloping into the lead from Homeola after the second last, it seemed a matter of time before the great winning margin would be

Browne resembled a spectator at Wimbledon as he looked left and right continually for non-existent dangers and even though the Pava had made up an enormous amount of ground in a close third at the last, Browne had not yet asked for a serious effort from his mount as they took the final hurdle two lengths ahead.

Perhaps Browne's Gazette was going too easily but, whatever the reason, although he jumped the flight perfectly, he crumpled on landing and gave Browne a crushing fall. If Hywel Davies, who was riding the Pava, thought it was his lucky day, he could hardly have believed his eyes when Homeola came galloping home to win.

Browne had himself been the victim of a cruel piece of misfortune when brought down by a loose horse when well ahead on Ayad at Ludlow the previous day, was presented with a gift-wrapped victory to add to his prodigious 1984 tally.

Davies said afterwards that The Pava, who apparently lost several lengths in some confusion on the home turn, would have won anyway. Mick Ryan, The Pava's trainer, thought so too and is looking forward to running the horse in the Philip Webb Stakes at Newbury next month.

Browne, however, confirmed what 99 per cent of onlookers must have felt when he said that he had only been watching on Browne's Gazette and the poor fellow's agony must have been made considerably worse by the fact that his father, Liam, the Irish trainer, and his mother were on holiday over here and had come to see the race. He had only the best of another pained spectator was a certain Michael Dickinson, the horse's trainer, paying one of his rare visits to a racecourse.

Discussed as a candidate for top honours, was once the worse for his fall and also said that Wayward Lad would quite possibly be the only one of his five colts to take on Brown Chambers at Newbury on Saturday.

Browne's Gazette was one of six favourites beaten during the afternoon and in the two subsequent races pasterns were parted from their owner with almost equally sadistic strokes of fortune.

The odds-on Greenwood Lad was going like a certain winner when he fell three fences from home in the Totipot Stakes. The last of the second favourite, Kathies Lad, fell at the second last fence.

However, Paul Davies had other ideas and drove Henry Kissinger back Kathies Lad in the dying strides.

In the hunter chase, Roadhead, also odds-on, looked even more of a certainty to be the last of the long-legged class of Gill O'Whiskey. However, Margaret Wilson found her horse suddenly treading water on the flat and Philip Hewitt took Gill O'Whiskey's nose in front right on the post.

Finally, as if to rub salt in the makers' wounds, John O'Neill rode back to victory at 16-1 in the Long Stanton Hurdle. Those who were wondering early about the fact that O'Neill had not ridden since the previous day's race, when he appeared to be the horse in the Sporting Life got it all wrong, however. O'Neill had been booked by Neville Bycroft, the trainer, the previous afternoon and the fact had been recorded in most of the other daily newspapers.

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## Rapid climb to success for high-flying Jenkins

Back in August, when blue skies and scorched grass welcomed West Country holidaymakers to the launch of a new National Hunt season, there was a scarcity of runners with stables reluctant to risk their charges on brick-hard going. Gradually, the top trainers dipped their big toes in to test the water's temperature only to find John Jenkins, the Sussex trainer, already fully submerged, swimming with the tide.

He soon established an early lead in the trainers' race and by Christmas had added 35 winners. It needed four Boxing Day winners by Michael Dickinson, the champion trainer, to overtake him. It was a remarkable achievement for a small stable and one that did not pass unnoticed. Peter Jones, in *Trainers' Record*, commented: "No trainer has made such rapid progress in recent seasons as John Jenkins".

Now in his fifth season training, Jenkins, aged 36, is shortly moving from his Lower Beeding stables, just outside Horsham, to take over the Woodcote Stud at Epsom, formerly owned by Sir Freddie Laker.

## Marvellous place

"The move should be completed by the beginning of March", Jenkins said. "I can't wait to move in. It will be a marvellous place to train. The facilities are superb. There are two yards, set in 72 acres and I plan to have an all-weather gallop laid down."

Jenkins, with curly hair and boyish looks, is a young man who can match his ambition with ability. A flurry of recent winners have him needing only two to equal his best score of 42, achieved last season.

He credits a great deal of his success to John Francome who agreed to ride for him this season as a second trainer after Fred Winter. "There is no doubt that John has won me some races other jockeys would not have done", the trainer admitted.

Jenkins has a Welsh background and spent his early years in Neath. He was 12 when his father "Ren" (short for Renfield) moved to Arundel as head lad to Gordon Smyth, and later, John Dunlop. Apprenticed to Smyth, it was soon obvious that young Jenkins was too heavy for the flat and he switched to National Hunt racing. In 11 seasons as a jockey he rode 77 winners.

One of his big disappointments came at Ascot in 1969 when he timed his run to perfection to win the Valley Gardens Opportunity Hurdle on an old favourite, Pinchurst Park. Unfortunately, the starter's timing was less perfect. He had despatched the runners three minutes early, so the race, and all bets, were declared void.

Two of the best horses Jenkins rode were Arboretum and Given, who was passed on to him when he began training at the outset of the 1979-80 season. This versatile campaigner gave him a flying start with four quick victories.

## Right opportunity

Looking back on his riding days, based in the south-east, Jenkins said: "Too often when I was riding, particularly for small stables, I would put a horse in the race with a winning chance and he would blow up because he wasn't properly fit. You tell the connections to run him again quickly, but they hesitate, believing they are being hard on the horse, so the chance is lost."

"A horse will stand a hard race, and come back for more, if he is fit and well. Too many horses go wrong because they are asked to do too much before they reach peak condition."

Now Jenkins is bringing into play all the experience he gained as a rider and his horses seldom fail on the score of fitness. He is also prepared, unlike some complacent trainers, to travel extensively to find the right opportunity

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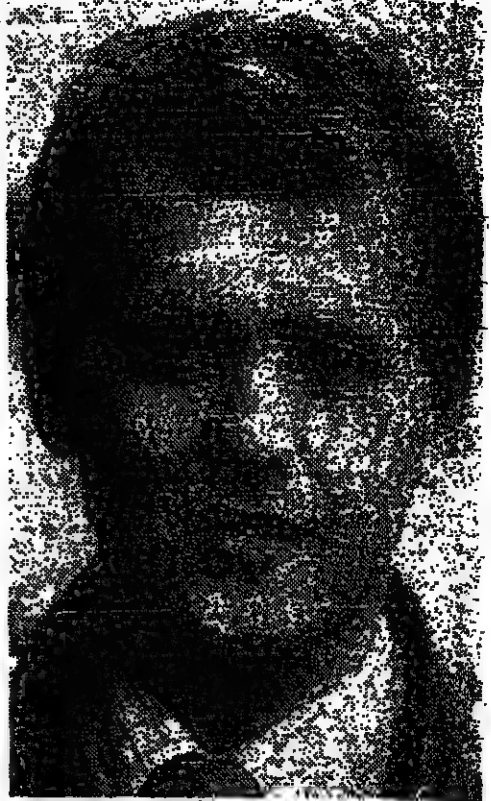
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Jenkins: ability to match his ambition

for a moderate animal. "I'm quite happy sending a selling plate all the way to Ludlow if I think he has a chance."

Jenkins is reticent about the stable's gambling exploits, but he has gone on record as saying: "It is better to have the reputation of running a betting stable than not having a reputation at all."

One reward for his success is that he is now being offered a better class of horse to train. Ideally he would like to have 35 quality horses at Epsom and with that aim will be busy at the sales later this year.

## Disappointing run

It was fellow Epsom trainer John Sutcliffe who recommended Paris North as a potential hurdler and at 23,000 guineas he is his most expensive purchase to date. The four-year-old grey looked worth every penny after sparkling victories at Newbury and Lingfield, but mystified his trainer when pulled up in the Stag Plate Trial at Cheltenham early in January.

"We still do not know what was wrong with him that day. He's fine now, so I am starting from scratch again. He's having a nice rest, and then I'll find a suitable race for him before deciding about the Triumph."

Jenkins is hopeful that Great Light despite his disappointing Kempton run, will give a good show in the Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury and passed on the tip: "Watch out for him later in novice chases. He will make them all go."

The trainer also has a high regard for Rhythmic Pastimes, who like Great Light, was trained on the Flat by Robert Williams at Newmarket. With Kyoto and Paris North, he helped Jenkins to his first treble, when scoring at the first time of asking at Leicester in November. Jenkins said: "He is still maturing and will make a decent staying hurdler next season."

John Jenkins has one ambition in National Hunt racing - to train as many winners as possible - and if his past record is anything to go by Epsom has acquired a valuable recruit to his historic ranks.

## Dick Hinder

10 4211 VENEVARD (C) J. Jenkins 8-11-2 M. Brown  
11 4212 ARMAINGAR WIZARD D. Nicholson 8-10-12 M. Brown  
12 4213 CROCKA NORA M. Cresswell 12-10-12 M. Brown  
13 4214 FASTER TIDE N. Brown 10-10-12 M. Brown  
14 4215 ETON LODGE P. Fitchard 7-10-12 M. Brown  
15 4216 MILK LAKE (B) M. Cresswell 10-10-12 M. Brown  
16 4217 BOSTONIA R. Jones 8-10-12 M. Brown  
17 4218 BOSTONIA R. Jones 8-10-12 M. Brown  
18 4219 PALM CROSS P. Fitchard 7-10-12 M. Brown  
19 4220 SEA SPRUCE M. W. Jones 8-10-12 M. Brown  
20 4221 AND WAT G. Lee 7-10-12 M. Brown

4 West 10, 3 Sea Spire, 7-2 by 10, 10 Successed, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123,















## End of the road for cars sporting a Triumph badge

Super Seven 1927 £149 10s

Roadster 1946 £895

Mayflower 1950 £625

Herald 1959 £619

Spitfire 1962 £662

TR6 1969 £1,333 19s 2d

Gloria 2-litre 1935 £340

Roadster 1950

TR2 1953 £871

Acclaim 1981 £4,688

Plans by British Leyland to drop the Triumph label, probably this summer, will mark the end of a long line of bicycles, motor cycles and cars bearing the distinctive red and blue badge (David Cross writes).

The last model to carry the Triumph name, the successful Acclaim, is expected to be replaced by a revamped version with a Rover badge produced at Longbridge. Like the Honda-based Acclaim the new 1.3 and 1.6 litre models will be based on a Japanese design unveiled at the Tokyo motor show last autumn.

The Triumph company, best-known for motor cycles and sports cars, started life exactly 100 years ago when a German, Herr Siegfried Dettmann, arrived in London to work for the Kelly Road directory firm. But, taking advantage of the bicycle boom sweeping Europe, he exported bicycles manufactured in Birmingham under his own name.

When it became clear that Dettmann was not a catchy name in Britain or on the continent he changed it to Triumph to make it more easily understood by non-German speakers.

In 1887, he was joined by Herr Mauritz Schulte, a German engineer, and in 1888 they moved to Coventry, then the centre of the cycle industry, to set up their own manufacturing plant.

The two Germans first fitted an engine into a Triumph bicycle in 1902 and quickly built up an international reputation for motor cycle engineering, which continued until the demise of the Triumph motor cycle cooperative at Meriden last year.

The original company moved from the production of two to four-wheeled vehicles in 1923 with the building of a solid modern family sedan of American inspiration.

In the late 1920s it tried to enter the mass-produced economy car market with a Triumph Super Seven model, but it lacked the financial resources of the bigger manufacturers like Morris, Austin, Standard and Singer.

Despite financial problems which culminated in its liquidation in 1939, the company introduced several British engineering innovations: pioneering hydraulic brakes in 1925 and the factory-fitted windscreen washers in 1935.

After the Second World War the motor company, which had separated from the motor cycle division in 1936, was taken over by the Standard company which made Ferguson tractors under licence. Standard-Triumph produced medium and small family saloons, the best-known of which was the Mayflower.

But it was not until the early 1950s, when it entered the sports car market with a long line of successful sports cars beginning with the TR2 that its reputation became truly international.

Financial problems dogged the company, in spite of the successful introduction of the Triumph Herald in 1959. It was taken over by Leyland Motors in 1961, the first car company to be acquired by the truck and bus firm. The new management introduced a range of Triumph models including the Spitfire sports car in 1962, the 2000 saloon in 1963 and the Dolomite in 1972. But these have been replaced with models under the better-known and more successful badges of Austin and Rover.

The cautious sports year of introduction and basic price of car, including tax.

## Robert Fisk in Beirut

### Law and order, Ruritania style

Law and order came to West Beirut yesterday, courtesy of Mr Nabih Berri and his Shia Muslim militia. The police were ordered back on to the streets, and the gunmen were instructed to return to the front line.

When one recalcitrant militiaman chose to walk down Corniche Mazraa with his automatic rifle, he was promptly shot, "executed in the field", as one local newspaper put it in courtly fashion, for carrying a weapon in a public place.

If President Gemayel had used such methods to keep the law in West Beirut one could imagine the reaction. But things are a little different these days.

Even the Squad 16 Lebanese Internal Security Force was told by the militia to patrol the west of the city. And, sure enough, there they were yesterday, back in their familiar red berets and khaki uniforms with the Arabic numerals in gold on the cap badges, driving through the streets in their old grey Land-Rovers.

The shops reopened along Hamra Street, even the grotesquely expensive ladies' plumping machines, which is not quite what the Islamic revolution is supposed to be about. Bar-owners were quietly told that Wednesday's drink-smashing session by Shia gunmen was an unfortunate excess that would not be repeated.

Fruit-sellers lounged on the kerbside and, during the sunny, dog-day afternoon, quite incredibly, a Middle East Airlines jet floated low over the roofs of the city and touched down at Beirut airport, courtesy once more of Mr Berri and his militia, right beside the astonished US Marine contingent of the now-defunct multinational force.

But, of course, things were not quite as they seemed in Mr Berri's little Ruritania. The policemen, for instance, were real policemen but they were also Shia. The reason was simple when they are not policemen they are members of the Shia Amal militia, and no self-respecting gunman in Beirut would ever have a clean shave in the morning. A few have even sewn a small and discreet green and red Amal

badge on to their goddamned uniforms sleeves.

Nor were the shopkeepers quite as confident as they looked. The petrol station owner down the Corniche was fingering ammunition into a brand-new submachine gun when I called for petrol during the afternoon.

"If those Phalangists try to come here there's going to be a massacre", he said. "No way are we going to let them get West Beirut back. The only soldiers we want are the ones who have come over to us."

He was a peaceful enough man, waving cheerfully to an Army deserter in a Marine uniform with an Islamic green scarf round his forehead, and inspecting the shrapnel patch in the bonnet of the West's faithful automobile with a winking sympathy.

But then he added, in his best American: "Man, if the Phalangists try to come here, you'd better keep your head in the sand."

The Americans proved to be those most curiously affected by the sudden shift in their status here. Yesterday morning, for instance, the Marine guards outside the British Embassy, where American diplomats are based, cheerfully permitted Druze militiamen holding Soviet-made AK47 rifles to wander inside the compound security zone. They were talking together like old friends.

But when American journalists brandishing American passports turned up to visit their own Embassy personnel, the Marines sourly ordered them to leave.

Asked why American reporters and photographers could not visit their Embassy compound when gunmen and Army mutineers were clanking into it, Mr John Stewart, the Embassy's respected press officer, uttered what might turn out to be one of the more memorable statements of President Reagan's decade in Lebanon: "It's a sorry camera, your camera is dangerous," he said. "It's because some people might consider the results - the reactions to the photographs - might be dangerous or damaging to foreign policy, or something like that."

Marines talk to gunmen, it seems, but not on camera.

## Others 'may bid for Scots yard'

Continued from page 1

Scott Lithgow to get into the long-term business of manufacturing oil exploration and production systems, and we need the space and the work force", Trafalgar House added.

A key part of Trafalgar's recent acquisitions in the oil and North Sea industry - with the chairman, Mr Nigel Brookes's knack of buying undervalued assets - was the purchase from British Steel in 1982 of the Redpath Dorman Long steel fabrication, which it integrated with the Cleveland engineering activity. The two operations employ about 7,000 on Teesside and build large steel rig components.

Trafalgar said: "We have invested in RDL and it now employs more people than when we took over. We did not

sell any of the business or asset strip it in any way. We are interested in a permanent Scott Lithgow and in keeping it British."

Cunard, the Trafalgar subsidiary, has also been having discussions recently with British Shipbuilders' Swan Hunter yard over delays in the building of the £40m replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor, the container ship sunk in the Falklands war. British Shipbuilders faces huge penalty payments if the ship is late, but Trafalgar said last night that that had played no part in the Scott Lithgow negotiations.

Howard Doris, the Anglo-French rig builder based on Loch Kishorn on the Scottish west coast, had seen itself as a front runner in the race to acquire Scott Lithgow and

appeared to be surprised by Trafalgar's announcement on Tuesday.

The 2,000 workers who walked out of Scott Lithgow yesterday were joined later in what is believed will be a 24-hour stoppage.

The workforce was angry that the deal was being "rushed through" without consultation and the prospect of 2,750 out of 3,500 employees losing their jobs.

The next move will be decided at a mass meeting today where there will be calls for occupation of the yard if the Trafalgar purchase is allowed to stand.

Union leaders are demanding talks with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland,

## Budget priority for personal tax relief

Continued from page 1

Abolition of or a cut in the national insurance surcharge to help industry seemed less likely.

With Mr Lawson's broad strategy of steady growth combined with low inflation and effective control of Government borrowing there was no argument.

The so-called "wets" such as Mr Peter Walker, and Mr James Prior believe that things are going much more their way. Indeed, so bland were the proceedings that a Cabinet source was said to have found the meeting boring.

Mr Lawson did not commit himself to any specific measures but will not have been unhappy with the outcome.

## British civilians begin to leave Beirut chaos

Continued from page 1

Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal militia leader, ordered gunmen off the streets of West Beirut and, however temporarily, did bring a considerable measure of order to the Muslim sector of the city during the day.

His own contribution to yesterday's stagnant political crisis was a demand that the Lebanese National Covenant should be changed to give the President only a two year term of office, a system that would ensure the departure of Mr Gemayel in only seven months' time.

But Mr Berri is riding a tiger, desperately trying to control his own militia, and Mr Gemayel

has said absolutely nothing since the civil war began, perhaps because he has nothing to say.

A chartered Middle East Airlines jet did manage to fly in to Beirut airport yesterday to collect a sick woman, and militia men around the terminal permitted the aircraft to land. American F-14 jets flew level from the aircraft sometimes 15ft from its wing tips, over the Mediterranean.

About 50 journalists were also on the aircraft. Asked who controlled the airport when he arrived, an American passenger replied: "I saw some people in uniform but there were a lot of guys in leather jackets stamping passports."

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Duke of Edinburgh visits ERA Technology Ltd, Leatherhead, Surrey, 11.  
Princess Alexandra attends the "Kids 'n Cops" Charity Concert, in aid of the Townwide Youth Club, Fulham Old Town Hall, SW6, 7.20.

**New exhibitions**  
Images: new paintings and drawings by David Napp, Philip Brown, Shaun Carey and Susan

Palin: Royal Museum, Canterbury, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until Feb 24).

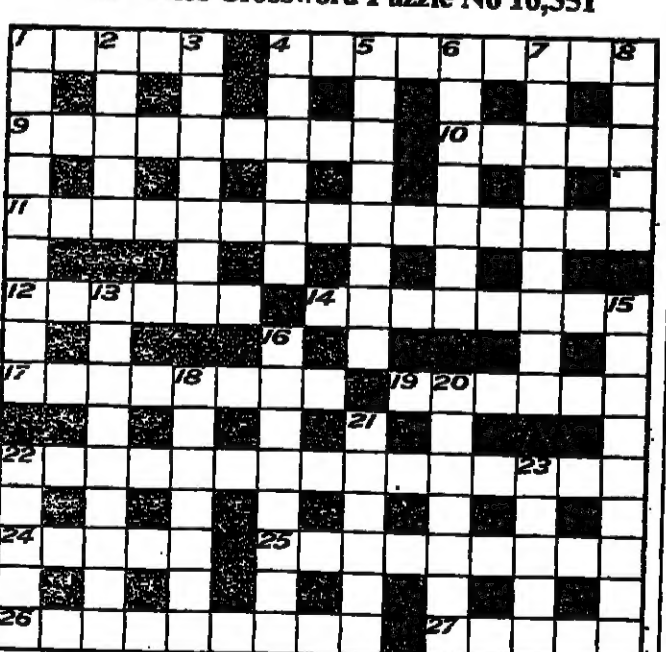
**New London exhibitions**  
The Magic Country: nineteenth and twentieth century children's illustrated books, Church Farm House Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW1: Mon to Sat 10 to 1, 2 to 5.30, Tues 10 to 1, Sun 2 to 5.30 (until March 25).  
Paintings by Brühilde Grasser: Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3: Mon to Tues, Thurs to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 6, closed Weds (until March 1).

### Exhibitions in progress

Gifts from Glasgow and Greenock: the best from the collections of University of Strathclyde and the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow: Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Richmond Street, Glasgow: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4 (until Feb 29).  
Drawing by George Fullard: MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rosalie Park, Ayr: Mon to Sat 11 to 5 (until Feb 18).

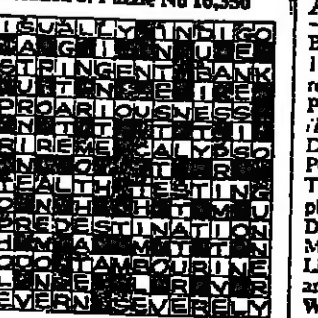
Image: an exhibition about painting: Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne: Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (until March 4).  
Seventy-fifth annual Arts Club exhibition: The Manor House, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,351



- ACROSS**
- Staff character keen to practise deception (5).
  - Poisoning of commander cut up after conflict (9).
  - Humpback Italian lawyer in arid surroundings (5).
  - Medium number (5).
  - Advocates obtain headquarters intended, say, for a sales area (7, 8).
  - Poem heard to apostrophise Shakespeare (6).
  - His charges are transferred from bank to bank (8).
  - Little girl - neat and nimble bird (8).
  - Corkscrew for a batsman, maybe (6).
  - Porter's invitation to start before the lady sister? (5, 3, 7).
  - Cook chaff (5).
  - It's a dream! Convert it for the stage (9).
  - Standing that may be put to the test (9).
  - Seasons occurring when sun and moon are attractive? (5).
- DOWN**
- A supporter of courses for team managers (9).
  - An affair proper for one's self-esteem in Paris? (5).
  - Bird like a rooster - and like certain ministers? (7).
  - Secret place for girl to weep about (6).
  - Rambler's manner with paying passenger on river (8).
  - Eggs precious, it's said, to a woodland creature (3, 4).
  - Fly from one Munich fiasco (9).
  - Rising detergent helps to make white bird (5).
  - Bullet-proof vest for a VIP's escort (9).
  - Fellows, yet full of confidence (9).
  - Few had directions to fish (8).
  - Gambler using second joker (7).
  - Part of chapter on a New Testament spectacular? (7).
  - Pious type formerly supporting alumnus (6).
  - "And slowly answered" Arthur from the - (Tennyson) (5).
  - One laid out describing the deeds of Achilles? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,350



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

### Food prices

The lovely pink early forced rhubarb in the shops at 40p a pound is ideal for fools, pies and tarts. Marmalade oranges from Spain, down to 25p a pound, are coming to an end. All citrus fruits are so valued, particularly Jaffa Shamoutis from 6 to 18p each, clementines from 28 to 32p a pound, satsumas from 20 to 30p, Jaffa grapefruit from 7 to 16p each and lemons from 5 to 12p each.

With St Valentine's Day approaching, passion fruit from Kenya at 15 to 20p each are a popular choice. Small pineapples from West Africa are from 55 to 65p each. Strawberries from Carmel, Spain and Kenya are a little cheaper this week at 80p to 85p a punnet. Apples and pears are plentiful: Coxes at 15 to 20p, Conference are still excellent quality.

Vegetable prices are mostly down because of the better weather. Cauliflowers are a particularly good buy at 40 to 50p each. Brussels sprouts from 16 to 26p a pound and leeks from 36 to 42p are also good value. As are root vegetables, including carrots from 15 to 20p, onions from 14 to 18p, swedes from 15 to 18p and turnips from 15 to 20p a pound. Green peppers are better value than red or yellow at 50 to 75p a pound; aubergines are from 50 to 80p.

There are several beef bargains on offer: for example one can have forequarter of beef for £1.58 a pound and shin for £1.48. Safeway have sirloin, topside and top round at £2.69; and minute steak at £2.69; and Sainsbury's have mince at 94p a pound. Pork leg joints in Fines Fare are 98p a pound and in Tesco 96p. English lamb prices are high, but New Zealand offers a cheaper alternative: whole shoulder in Dewhurst is from 64 to 89p a pound and whole leg from £1.20 to £1.46.

Easier conditions at sea have meant a fall in fish prices: cod is down to an average of £1.34 a pound, haddock £1.36, plaice £1.51. EY

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.60	1.52
Austria Sch	26.60	27.00
Belgium Fr	84.50	80.50
Canada \$	1.83	1.76
Denmark Kr	14.68	13.98
Finland Mk	8.67	8.27
France Fr	12.30	11.84
Germany DM	4.82	4.64
Greece Dr	162.00	152.00
Hong Kong \$	11.35	10.75
Ireland Pt	1.31	1.25
Italy Lira	246.00	236.00
Japan Yen	348.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.56	4.33
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	201.00	191.00
South Africa Rd	1.94	1.80
Spain Ptas	227.40	218.00
Sweden Kr	11.98	11.38
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA \$	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	210.00	200.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency issues.

Source: The FT Index closed down 3.7 at 801.3.

### Roads

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at junction 22 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant) delays. A470: Roadworks at Plymouth Street, Merthyr Tydfil, and at Edwardsville, Mid Glamorgan; temporary traffic signals. A30: Roadworks on the A30 at Stonehouse, Cambridgeshire.

Midlands and East Angles: A49: Roadworks at Marshbrook, between Shrewsbury and Ludlow; single lane traffic, with traffic signals. A45: Roadworks on Cambridge bypass; lane closures.

North: Liverpool: Queensway Tunnel closed nightly, all traffic is being diverted via the Liverpool Waterway tunnel, between 9.15 pm and 5.45 am. A19/A1046: Reconstruction work at Portrack roundabout, near river Tyne. A66: Waterboard work at Slys Road, Lancashire; single lane traffic with traffic lights.

Scotland: A85: Bridge works on Riverside Drive at Tay Railway Bridge, Dundee; westbound carriageway reduced to single lane, no right turn westbound into Riverside approach. A85: Sewer works in Invergowrie; single lane traffic with traffic lights. A82: Landslide repairs at Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire; single lane traffic with traffic signals.

Information supplied by the AA.

### The papers

President Reagan's decision to transfer the US Marines in Beirut to ships offshore was the only common policy alternative after a diplomatic policy failure, major American newspapers said yesterday, but some papers sharply criticized the administration's overall handling of Lebanon.

The Washington Post urged President Reagan to avoid the temptation to take such dramatic action in a bid to salvage prestige. The paper added: "Neither the countries that rely on the United States nor those tempted to challenge forces relying on the United States can fail to take the serious results in Lebanon into their future calculations."

The paper commented: "It is not the administration's or the country's finest hour." But said it would be wrong to regard the failed US peace effort as a disaster for US policy elsewhere in the middle east. "The United States needs undramatic steadiness in the Middle East. That is what has been missing," the paper concluded.

Top films

Top box office films in London:

- (1) Scarface
- (2) The Untouchables
- (3) Trading Places
- (4) The Honorary Consul
- (5) Never Say Never Again
- (6) Lili
- (7) La Traviata
- (8) Sahara
- (9) The First Name Carmen

Top five in the provinces:

- (1) Scarface
- (2) The Untouchables
- (3) Trading Places
- (4) The Honorary Consul
- (5) La Traviata

## Weather forecast

An area of high pressure near Britain will keep most parts dry with some sunshine

### Gam to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles: Variable cloud, hazy sunshine at times, becoming misty later with variable light; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F). Midlands, Wales, Channel Islands, SW, NW, Central S and N England: Patchy sun, some drizzle, sunnier or clear in places; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F). NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, sunny or clear periods, fog patches developing later; wind mainly SW, light or moderate; max temp 9 to 10C (48 to 50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Dry with hazy sunshine at times, clear intervals and misty later; wind SW moderate, perhaps light at times; max temp 9 to 10C (48 to 50F). NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright at times, some hill fog and drizzle, mainly SW, light or strong; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).